GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(*contd.*)

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad cum Parur*) : സർ, ഞാൻ ഇന്നലെ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യംനോക്കിയുള്ള നിയമനക്കാര്യത്തിൽ മിനിമം കപ്പാളിഫിക്കേഷനുള്ളവരുടെ അവകാശം കൂടുതൽ കപ്പാളിഫിക്കേഷനുള്ളവരുടെ നിയമനംകൊണ്ട് നഷ്ടമാക്കരുതു് എന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു. ഇതിനെ തുടർന്നു സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യത്തിനു ഹാനിവരാത്ത പ്രാദേശികപ്രാതിനിധ്യവിഷയത്തിൽക്കൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ന്യായദൃഷ്ടി പതിയണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കപേക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്. ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി താലൂക്കിനു വടക്കുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളെല്ലാംതന്നെ സമുദായവ്യത്യാസമില്ലാത്തരീതിയിൽ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിൽനിന്നു പുറംതള്ളപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഈ വസ്തുത പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ നിർബന്ധിതനായതു്. നമ്മുടെ വരവു്, ഏതാനും ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം, അതിന്റെ അത്യുച്ചനിലയിൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും, അബ്കാരി, ഫാറസ്റ്റ് മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിലെ വരവു കുറയുവാനല്ലാതെ മാർഗ്ഗം കാണുന്നില്ലെന്നും ഇന്നലെ ചില മെംബറന്മാർ ഇവിടെ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. നമ്മുടെ ചെലവു ചുരുക്കുന്ന കാര്യം ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഒരു ജീവൽ പ്രശ്നമാണു്.

ഫാമിൻ-ൽ ഒന്നര ലക്ഷത്തിൽ അല്പം കൂടുതലായിരുന്ന പെൻഷൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇരുപതു ലക്ഷത്തോളം വന്നു നിൽക്കുന്നതു ഏറ്റവും പരിഭ്രമജനകമാണു്.

PRESIDENT : I have been hearing arguments regarding the necessity to cut down the growing figure of expenditure by way of pension. I shall be glad if honourable members, who are like the Government, anxious about the increase of pension, would suggest the means of dealing with the situation. If in a discussion of this nature suggestions are made, it would be of great value.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : നമ്മുടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഒരു വയസ്സിനുശേഷം വെറുതെ പിരിച്ചയക്കണമെന്നു ഞാനും പറയുന്നില്ല; പറയുകയുമില്ല. അവക്ക് ബോണസ്സോ, ഗ്രാറ്റുവിറിറിയോ, പ്രൊവിഡൻറു ഫണ്ടോ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി ഈ വൻ ചെലവു ലഘൂകരിക്കണമെന്നും അതിലേക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടി പതിയണമെന്നുമാണു ഞാൻ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു്.

ശമ്പളച്ചെലവു എങ്ങിനെ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു് പോലീസ്, ആയുർവേദം മുതലായ ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ കണക്കുകൾ ഉദ്ധരിച്ചു് മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ആർ. നാരായണൻ ഇന്നലെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു

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[Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tharakan.]

കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഡിറക്ഷൻ സ്റ്റാഫിലെ ചില ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൂറച്ചും ൪൦൦ രൂപയ്ക്കു മേൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽനിന്നും, അവക്കു പെട്ടെന്നു യാതൊരു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും തോന്നിക്കാത്തരീതിയിൽ, ഒരു ശതമാനം കൂറച്ചും ഈ സംഗതി നിർവഹിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഫൻമെഫ്ലെ റിട്രെഞ്ച്മെൻറു കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ശുപാർശകൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും അവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ കൃഷി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ നാമെല്ലാം ഇന്നല്ലെങ്കിൽ നാളെ മുഴ പട്ടിണിക്കാരായിപോകുമെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം തീർച്ചയാണു്. ൩൦ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളോളം ഇപ്പോൾ കാണുവാനിടയുള്ളതായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നെൽകൃഷിക്കു ഉപയോഗിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന സ്ഥലം ൩,൫൨,൩൫൫ ഏക്കറാണു് അതായതു് ശരാശരി ഒരാളിനു് ഫ ഫ സെൻറു സ്ഥലം മാത്രമാണു ഉള്ളതു്. ഫ൯൫൭-ൽ ൨,൮൩,൦൩൯ ടൺ അരിയും ഏകദേശം അത്രയും ടൺ നെല്ലുമാണു് ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ പരാധീനത ഇന്നും ഇന്നലെയും തുടങ്ങിയതല്ല. ഫ൦൫൫-ൽ ൨,൩൭,൮൯൯ രൂപയുടെ നെല്ലും, ൩,൯൩,൫൫൩ രൂപയുടെ അരിയും ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണാം. നമ്മുടെ കൃഷിസ്ഥലം പതിപ്പിക്കാതെയും വിളവു് അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്താതെയും ഈ പരരാജ്യപരാധീനത പാലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോയാൽ വല്ല പ്രത്യേക കാരണങ്ങളാലും വാണിജ്യസ്തംഭനം ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ നാം വളരെ പരുങ്ങലിലാകും.

വെണ്ണ കൈവശംവച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അതു് ഉരുക്കി നെയ്യാക്കാനുള്ള ലഘുശ്രമത്തിനു അമാന്തം കാണിച്ചു് നെയ്യ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി പരഭവനം കയറി നടക്കുന്ന ഈ പരാശ്രയജീവിതം നിറുത്തുവാൻ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് കാര്യമായി ചെയ്യുവാനുള്ളതു് എല്ലാം ചെയ്യണം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർ പലതും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നില്ല. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ നെൽകൃഷിസ്ഥലമുള്ള കുന്നത്തുനാട്ടുകാരനും പണ്ഡിതനും സമർത്ഥനുമായ ഒരു യുവാവു് കൃഷിഡയറക്ടരായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൻറെ വിത്തറയെന്നും കലവറയെന്നും പറയുന്ന അമ്പലപ്പുഴ താലൂക്കിലെ സ്വദേശിസ്നേഹിയായ ഒരംഗം ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ആഹാരവിഭവങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു ആവർത്തിച്ചാവർത്തിച്ചു പ്രവചിക്കുന്ന കർമ്മധീരനും കർമ്മകുശലനും ആയ സചിവോത്തമൻ

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സചിവപദത്തിലിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതിനൊന്നും ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ ന്നാണ ഇതിലേക്ക വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുന്നതെന്ന ഞാൻ വിനയപൂർവ്വംചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറിനെപ്പററി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ചുരുക്കി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം. ഇന്നുള്ള ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾ ആശുപത്രികളിൽ ആപ്പറേഷനുള്ള സാമാന്യ സൗകര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാമുണ്ടാക്കണം. ആശുപത്രികൾ അനുവദിക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിലും പ്രൈവറ്റ് ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾക്കു ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിലും ചില താലൂക്കുകളെ അവഗണിച്ചുകളയരുതു്. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കുറയുന്നതുപോലെതന്നെ ആശുപത്രികളും വൈദ്യസഹായവും കുറഞ്ഞാണുകാണുന്നതു്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം സൂക്ഷ്മമായി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ ആ സ്ഥലത്തുള്ളവർ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണെന്നും മനസിലാക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് പരീക്ഷായോഗ്യതയുള്ള അലോപ്പതി വൈദ്യന്മാർ ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾക്കു് ഗ്രാൻറു അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു് അവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾ പത്തു പേക്കു ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. പക്ഷെ മുപ്പതിൽപരം താലൂക്കുകളുള്ള ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് ഇതു് വെറും നിസ്സാരമെന്നേ പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ടു് കൂടുതൽ ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾ അനുവദിച്ചു് ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു് അവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണം. കൊച്ചിയിൽ പരീക്ഷിച്ച നടപ്പിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ഈ പദ്ധതി വളരെ പ്രയോജനമുള്ളതാണെന്നു വ്യക്തമായിരിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ താഴ്ന്നഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പൊതുവെയും എക്സൈസിലും പൊലീസിലും ഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും വലിയ കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു് പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ ശക്തിമത്തായ സംസാരമുണ്ടു്. വർദ്ധിച്ച ശമ്പളവും അതിനടുത്ത അലവൻസും പറഞ്ഞിവരുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ നിയന്ത്രണവും ശ്രദ്ധയും ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ പതിഞ്ഞില്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ അജാഗ്രതയുടെയോ കാര്യക്ഷമതയുടെയോ മുൻപിൽ ഒരു ചോദ്യചിഹ്നം വ്യക്തമായി നിലകൊള്ളുമെന്നുള്ളകാര്യം വിസ്മരിക്കരുതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും അവരുടെ കീഴിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അഴിമതികളേയും അക്രമങ്ങളേയും കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു കുറക്കാരെ മാതൃകായോഗ്യമാംവണ്ണം ശിക്ഷിക്കണം. അജ്ഞതാവാത്സല്യം നിമിത്തം അക്രമങ്ങൾ കണ്ടാലും അതിനെ അവഗണിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരു നീതിമാനായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻറെ ധർമ്മമല്ല.

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[Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tharakan.]

അടുത്ത സെൻസസ്സ് എടുക്കുമ്പോൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ജാതി, പേര്, ശമ്പളം, ജന്മദേശം മുതലായവ കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പട്ടികകൂടി തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാശ്യമാണു്. ഈ സമ്പ്രദായം പഞ്ചാബിൽ അങ്ങനെതന്നെ നടത്തിവരുന്നതായിട്ടാണു് എന്റെ അറിവു്. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ ജാതിവിവരപ്പട്ടികയെപ്പറ്റി കൂടുതൽ വിവരങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കാതെ കഴിക്കാമെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല സംഗതികളുടെ യഥാർത്ഥ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കണ്ണാടിയിൽ എന്നപോലെ തെളിഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നതിനും സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ സെൻസസ്സു കാലത്തു് കന്നുത്തനാട്ടതാലൂക്കിൽ പതിനയ്യായിരം മാർത്തോമ്മാക്കാർ ഉള്ളതായി കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള മാർത്തോമ്മാക്കാർ അവിടെ ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം സ്ഥലപരിചയം നല്ലതുപോലെയുള്ള എനിക്കു ശരിക്കറിയാം. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു സമുദായത്തിന്റെ സംഖ്യ മറെറാരു സമുദായത്തിന്റെ സംഖ്യയിൽ കൂട്ടിചേർത്തു കുഴക്കുന്നതു രാഷ്ട്രീയകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ജനസംഖ്യ ഒരു പ്രധാനഘടകമായിവന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു ചിലക്കു ഗുണവും ഗുണമുണ്ടാകേണ്ടവക്കു ദോഷവും വന്നുചേരുവാൻ ഇടയുണ്ടു്. ജനിക്കാതെ ജനിക്കുകയും, ചാകാതെ ചാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ "ഇന്ദ്രജാലക്കളി" നിറുത്തുവാൻ അടുത്ത സെൻസസ്സിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഗൗനിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

PRESIDENT : Is it the suggestion that there should be enumerated a statement in the House as to the speculated number of Marthomites etc.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : യാക്കോബായക്കാർ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവീസിൽ ഓവർ റിപ്രസെൻറ്ഡ് ആണെന്നും പിന്നീടു ഫെയർളി റിപ്രസെൻറ്ഡ് ആണെന്നും ഭരണാധികാരികൾ പ്രസ്താവിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഇടയായതു മറു ചില ക്രസ്തീയവിഭാഗക്കാർ, യാക്കോബായക്കാരെന്ന വ്യാജേനയിൽ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഇപ്പോഴും അത്തരക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതും എനിക്കറിയാം. അവരുടെ പേരുകൾ ഉദ്ധരിച്ചു സഭാമര്യാദലംഘിക്കുകയും അവരുടെ സൂത്രം വെളിപ്പെടുത്തി തേജോവധം ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നില്ല.

വില്ലേജു പഞ്ചായത്തു സിസ്റ്റം എല്ലാ പ്രകൃതികളിലും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ മാത്രമെ അതുകൊണ്ടു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന പ്രയോജനം സിദ്ധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. നേഷൻബിൽഡിംഗ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ വഴി പൊതുജനകാര്യങ്ങൾ തീർച്ചയാക്കുന്നതു വളരെ പരിഷ്കൃത നയമാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ

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ഏതു സ്ഥലത്തുപോയാലും ഭിക്ഷക്കാരുടെ ശല്യം വലിയ വിഷമമായിട്ടാണു കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു്. ഭിക്ഷ എടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു തൊഴിലായിത്തന്നെ തീർന്നിരിക്കുകയാണു്. ഭിക്ഷയെടുത്തു സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണം പലിശയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളവരും അവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. യഥാർത്ഥഭിക്ഷ അർഹിക്കുന്നവർ പലരും ഉണ്ടു. ഗവണ്മെൻറും മുൻസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളും ഈ യാചകപ്രശ്നത്തിനു ഒരു പ്രായോഗിക പരിഹാരം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചാൽ സഹായം അർഹിക്കുന്നവർക്കു സഹായംകിട്ടും. പിച്ചവേഷക്കാരുടെ പിത്തലാട്ടവും കുറയും. ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ സ്റ്റോറുകാൺഗ്രസ് ബഹളകാലത്തു കുറെ ബസ്സുകൾ നശിപ്പിച്ചതുനിമിത്തവും മറ്റും കുറെ നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു എന്നുള്ളതു ഞാനും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. പക്ഷേ, ബസ്സുകൾ നശിച്ചതുനിമിത്തം മൂലധനത്തിൽ മാത്രമെ കുറവുവരാൻ ഇടയുള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെനഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണം എന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. പെട്രോളിനുംമറ്റും വിലകൂടിയതു സമീപകാലത്താണു എങ്കിലും പറയത്തക്ക ലാഭം ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൻെറ രഹസ്യം എന്താണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ഇന്നലെ ഒരു മാന്യമെംബർ ഈ പദ്ധതികളുടെ ആദായം ചോർന്നുപോകാതെ നോക്കണമെന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു. അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഗൗനിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ എലികളുള്ള പത്തായത്തിലെ വിത്തു സൂക്ഷിപ്പുപോലെ വന്മിച്ച പദ്ധതികൾ പരാജയപ്പെട്ടുമെന്നു പ്രവചിക്കുവാൻ വലിയ ദൂർഘദർശിത്വമൊന്നും വേണമെന്നില്ല.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think there is some confusion in regard to this matter. I suppose honourable members are aware that in regard to the accounts of the State Transport Department, interest on capital is deducted and provision is made for depreciation and, after that this year 12 per cent is the profit notwithstanding the increase in the price of petrol. And the difficulties due to the enhanced cost of petrol, are not as grave as the difficulties due to the present condition of the roads. Heavy bus springs collapse often and we do not get spare parts from Europe. Incidentally there is an advantage because we are making a number of spare parts in the State. The point should be borne in mind that the commercial enterprise in the first year of its undertaking has given a return of 12 per cent. instead of 25 per cent. as anticipated after deducting the depreciation. It may be stated that even our moderate calculations are to the effect that after the completion of the road between Cape Comorin and Trivandrum, that is after concreting is over, 25 per cent is expected as net income. The whole discussion must bear in mind that fact. I have pointed out that sooner or later the Transport Department will be made responsible for the maintenance of the roads it uses and responsibilities to make the roads car-worthy will be thrown on them. But it can certainly be stated that 12 per cent. net profit after deducting depreciation is a matter for satisfaction.

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MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഏതായാലും ഈ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ടുപദ്ധതി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ തെക്കേ അറ്റംമുതൽ വടക്കെഅറ്റംവരെ എർപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അതു വളരെ പ്രയോജനപ്രദമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ഇവിടെ നിന്നും കൊട്ടരക്കര ചെന്നാൽ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ മണിക്കൂർ താമസിക്കുന്നതിനു യാത്രക്കാക്ക് യാതൊരു സൗകര്യവുമില്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു നഷ്ടപ്പെടണമെന്നു ആരും പറയുന്നില്ല.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Honourable members are perfectly entitled to criticise any instance of want of attainments or of any other defect. There is point in it. But it will be better if the point of view of the departments and Government is also borne in mind.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: കൊട്ടാരക്കര സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ ഇതിനുവേണ്ട സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടെന്നു സെക്രട്ടറി ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞു. അദ്ദേഹം ആ സ്ഥലം ശരിയായി കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെ സ്ഥലം കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇതിനെ പറയുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ആ കെട്ടിടം ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ആക്കി ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു് എടുത്താലും മതിയാകും. ഇപ്പോൾ കാപ്പിക്കടകളുടെയും പലചരക്കുകടകളുടെയും വരാന്തകളിലാണു് യാത്രക്കാർ ഇരുന്നു് സമയം കളയുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വക കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

അടുത്തതായി റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. തറവില ഇനത്തിൽ സൗജന്യം അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഇരുന്നൂറിൽപരം രൂപയ്ക്കുമേലുള്ള തുകകൾക്കാണു്. സാധുക്കൾ സാധാരണമായി ഭൂമിപതിച്ചു വാങ്ങുന്നതു് ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചോമുപ്പതോ സെൻറുമാത്രമാണു്. ഈ സാധുക്കൾക്കാണു് സൗജന്യം അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു്. പണക്കാർക്കുമാത്രമേ ഇപ്പോൾ സ്ഥലം പതിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നുള്ളൂ. സാധുക്കൾക്കു് കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. പാവങ്ങൾക്കു സ്ഥലവും ഇല്ല സൗജന്യവും ഇല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവക്കു വേണ്ട സൗജന്യം അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കാരുണ്യം ഉണ്ടാകണം.

അസംബ്ലി നടപടികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ചില ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു് ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു അതാലേക്കുള്ള ഉത്തരം തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിനു ചെലവാക്കേണ്ട സമയവുമായി താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തുമ്പോൾ തുച്ഛം കിട്ടു

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ന്നില്ല എന്ന് ആണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തോട് എനിക്ക് പറയേണ്ട എന്ന വിചാരിച്ചാണ് കൂടുതലായി അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നും ചോദിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള മറുപടിപറഞ്ഞാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടമെന്റിൽ നടക്കുന്ന അഴിമതികൾ എങ്ങിനെയാണ് വ്യക്തമാക്കുന്നത്? ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറി അറിഞ്ഞോ അറിയാതെയോ ഈ വക രഹസ്യങ്ങൾ പുറത്തുവിടാൻമടിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think the point that has been made out is a very useful one and I may as well make the position clearer. Out of a total number of questions of over 500, nearly a hundred relate to the number of peons or subordinate officers by caste in the various departments and sub-departments. I know as a matter of fact, and I am speaking from personal knowledge, that as soon as the questions come up, all the normal work done in the departments concerned are upset and everybody is engaged on the collection of the data required. This House has already formulated certain proposals for the purpose of rectifying the inequalities of representations in Government service and I think honourable members must realise that what was done in the past cannot be undone and if there had been any inequality in the past it cannot be redressed immediately. In regard to the future, all this information is extremely valuable from the point of view of jogging the memories of the Heads of Departments and stimulating them to endeavour to redress all the past injustices. But now that a programme and a policy has been laid down, I would invite the attention of the honourable members to the futility in continuing these questions because I know that tremendous energy has to be expended on the work. And assuming all the information is given, what will they lead to? That will lead to this, *viz.*, that a certain number of persons belonging to Mr. Thariath Kunjithommen's community, of whom he is so justly indignant and eloquent, are badly represented in certain departments notwithstanding their population, their culture, their education and their general position. Assuming that, what can be done in regard to the past at this moment? Nothing! In regard to the future the policy has been laid down already. Therefore I would invite it is not in a spirit of captiousness or reproach for I realise the strength of feeling underlying these questions and the disappointments that follow the honourable members to get such answers as are supposed to be given and for which he is less responsible than myself. But at the same time it may be borne in mind that in the nature of things, not much use is to be made of this. I would invite the honourable members that as soon as the Public Service Recruitment Rules come into operation any infraction or deviations may be zealously scrutinised and at that stage all these researches and enquiries will be profitable and possible. But as regards the past the exhumation of corpses might have some psychological importance but have no practical effect.

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MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : നിയമസഭയിൽ പാസ്സാക്കുന്ന കട്ട്മോഷൻസ്, പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ, അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയങ്ങൾ ഇവകളുടെ മേൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി എന്നു ഞങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഇതു പ്രയാസപ്പെട്ട് ഇവ പാസ്സാക്കി അയയ്ക്കുന്നതെന്തിന് ? ഗവണ്മെൻറ അവയെ സ്വീകരിച്ചാലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും അതിൻമേൽ എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി എന്നു ഞങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. മറു നിയമസഭകളിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു നയമുണ്ട്. അതിവിടേയും സ്വീകരിക്കണം. ആ നയം സ്വീകരിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ മെമ്പറന്മാരുടെയും നിയമസഭകളുടെയും അന്തസ്സിനുതന്നെ അതു കുറവു വരുത്തും.

അവസാനമായി ഇതു വിശദമായി ധാതൊരുതരത്തിലും ക്ലംസിയല്ലാതെ ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതിനു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ ഞാൻ അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*): Sir, it is with a sense of relief that I went through the Budget presented before the House. We know that this country, along with the rest of the world, is passing through one of the most difficult of times. And I would not have been surprised to hear that the world conditions have affected our financial stability most seriously, but after having gone through the budget I am surprised not that it has affected us to some extent but it has affected us so little.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The honourable member will find that the effects of all these are determined next year or the year after.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I am coming to that. I take it as a telling proof of the financial stability of the State and the soundness of the financial policy followed by the administration so far. The country has every reason to congratulate itself and every duty to thank the administration.

I believe it is my duty at this point to refer to one or two new items of taxation that has been resorted to. I think it my duty because I heard one or two disapproving notes in the speeches made by some members. As I said at the outset, these are exceptional times and the kindest thing that the administration can do is to impose such additional taxation as would not prove a burden to the ordinary middle class citizen of this country. The items of taxation have been chosen with the deepest consideration for the poorer classes of the people of this country. The taxation is so adjusted that the burden falls only on those who are capable of bearing the burden. Sir, I am prepared to go one step further. We know what is happening in other parts of the world. In some parts taxation has increased not by cent per cent but it has increased by 300 and 400 per cent. Fortunately for us the war is several thousands of miles away from us. But the world has become

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so inter-related and so compact on account of modern scientific developments that we should not be ultra sanguine in the matter of our safety. It is quite possible that the danger of war may come nearer our doors at any time. I will only call on the representatives of the people to be ready even for such a contingency and to be prepared to make sacrifices, not confined merely to the higher strata of society but even to the lowest of the low.

In this connection, Sir, I think I might make a reference to one particular subject which unfortunately is not dependent upon us. While fully approving the methods resorted to by Government for additional taxation, I believe, I have to repeat one thing which I have been repeating for several years past *viz.*, that it is the duty of the Government to see that the cocoanut cultivator in this country is protected. It has been pointed out yesterday by Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar that due to the severe drought this year the output next year will be perhaps 2/3 of what we get in a normal year. There is also the murderous dumping by Ceylon which has been impoverishing the cocoanut cultivators in this country for several years. Since I became a member of this House, I do not remember any period in which we have not been agitating about it by means of cut motions, adjournment motions and resolutions. We have been told that it was beyond the control of the Government on account of the Interportal Convention, foreign relations, political treaties and other things. Such incomprehensible terms are thrown on our head and we are told that we are powerless. We know, Sir, that treaty obligations have made us powerless, that conventions have made us powerless. But the situation is so serious and so insistent that especially as it comes on the head of the various economic difficulties we are suffering to-day, I am afraid that the middle class Travancorean who depends not upon tea or rubber or cardamom but mainly on pepper and cocoanut will be brought down to the rock bottom of penury next year. Therefore I entreat the Government to use all their influence in this matter and see that some relief is given to us.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Is not the bare need the test for additional taxation when we have super-abundant funds ?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: I shall only say that if he believes this budget to be a surplus budget I entirely dissociate myself from him. I shall come to that aspect of the budget very soon when I shall have something to say to the Financial Secretary. I do not believe that the budget is a surplus budget and I believe that there is urgent need for imposition of new taxation. Sir, in short, I have merely to thank the administration for the very sound financial policy followed so far and congratulate ourselves upon the sound financial state in which we are able to find ourselves even at this juncture.

PRESIDENT : I may say that this Government will be obliged to public men and to honourable members of this House for any help that they can give by means of carefully worded resolutions to strengthen the hands of Government in the efforts they are making to deal with a terrible situatio .

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, having said that, I regret I have to dissociate myself from my very numerous friends who have showered their compliments on the Financial Secretary. The Budget and the Budget speech reflect certain important changes in the financial policy, to none of which I can give my approval. But at this moment it is not the main point on which I am talking. When I came to this Assembly I came prepared to hear from the Financial Secretary a straightforward, blunt statement of facts as they stand to-day. When I heard the first portion of his speech, the introduction, and found him playing the part of Il Penseroso I got prepared for unpleasant truths. But the body of the speech belied my expectations. He dragged us on and on through numerous misleading statements. I would have considered them *bona fide* mistakes but they are so numerous that I am forced to suppose that they are not unconscious but the habitual jugglaries of Financial Secretaries.

The speech begins with an explanation of the actuals for 1114 and commences with a mis-statement. The Financial Secretary says that we anticipated a revenue receipt of Rs. 256·27 lakhs and budgeted for a deficit of Rs. 0·81 lakh, but that a slight worsening of the position resulted in a fall of the revenue to the extent of Rs. 2·45 lakhs and a deficit of Rs. 2·04 lakhs. Does the Financial Secretary want us to believe that the budgeting for an year commences with the revised estimate? The numbers given here are the numbers of the revised estimates. The estimate for an year does not begin at the end of the year and any one who knows what budgeting is can understand the use of the words "budgeted a deficit of Rs. 0·81 lakh" as referring to the budget estimate. The Budget estimate in fact was for a revenue of Rs. 261·41 lakhs and a surplus of Rs. 1·43 lakhs. Whether the worsening of the position was slight or not, it is for the Financial Secretary to say, the revenue expectation has fallen by Rs. 7·59 lakhs and the balance by Rs. 3·46 lakhs. It might be a mistake, but for the Financial Secretary to say that we estimated a revenue of Rs. 256·27 lakhs and deficit of Rs. 8·59 lakhs is a mis-statement and a mis-representation.

On another occasion explaining to us the receipts for the year 1116 he says that the normal revenue stands at Rs. 265·49 lakhs, a figure practically equal to the revised estimates for the current year. The total revenue according to the Budget is Rs. 285·45 lakhs and this is due to the inclusion of 2 years' income from the Cochin harbour. From the Budget it is seen that this figure is Rs. 16·5 lakhs but I am told that it is only Rs. 14 lakhs. Even taking it to be the lower figure of Rs. 14 lakhs the additional income of Rs. 8 lakhs proposed to be obtained by new taxation will make Rs. 22 lakhs. Deducting this the revenue for the next year will come to Rs. 263 lakhs, about Rs. 3 lakhs below the revenue for this year. But the Financial Secretary says plainly and boldly that the revenue is Rs. 265·49 lakhs, practically the same as that of the current year.

Coming to the expenditure side, the Financial Secretary says that excluding the provision of Rs. 10 lakhs for war purposes the expenditure estimated for next year is Rs. 1·89 lakhs below the expenditure for the current year. But he conveniently forgets and hopes that we would also forget that when we deduct from next year's estimates the provision of Rs. 10 lakhs for war purposes, we must also deduct from

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the current year's expenditure the sum of Rs. 6·11 lakhs included for war purposes. But the Financial Secretary deducts from the next year's expenditure Rs. 10 lakhs and conveniently omits to deduct Rs. 6·11 lakhs from the current year's expenditure, when he says that the next year's expenditure stands at Rs. 1·89 lakhs below the expenditure for current year. The actual fact is that the next year's expenditure will stand not at Rs. 1·89 lakhs below the expenditure for the current year but at Rs. 4·22 lakhs above the expenditure for the current year.

(He tells us that the State Railway has all along been a loss.) He tells us that it would be a loss to us this year. Then he says that he is not budgeting for a loss next year though there is bound to be a loss next year also.

PRESIDENT: Because he expects it to be removed.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: We have not been told about it. This recurring loss has all along been a matter of deep consideration for us and as it is a matter on which we have not got much right to say anything, we have been repeatedly bringing to the notice of the Government in every way that was open to us. After all it is not simply dependent on the will of a Financial Secretary. There must be some reason for it and if there is a reason it is the happiest of thing that we could hear.

PRESIDENT: I do not want to curtail the honorary member's right of speech. But I wish to say that the retrocession of railway lines has given us a certain amount of increase. Another cause is that certain negotiations are pending which I hope will be successful. At this moment it was found difficult to communicate the scope of those negotiations.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: If only the Financial Secretary had given us a hint that some negotiations are going on we would have been satisfied.

The most astounding portion of his speech is the portion which enumerates some items of economy. I am not concerned with the persons mentioned there. At this moment they are not under discussion. But, Sir, I find it very difficult to accept the position that these steps have been taken in the interest of economy The amalgamation of the posts of the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Co-operative Registrar is an old matter. It came up for discussion last year. Various arguments were raised against and for it. But nobody told us that it was in the interest of economy. And then, Sir, does the Financial Secretary honestly say that Dr. Kamesam was allowed to go away for reducing expenditure? I am not supporting or opposing the retention of Dr. Kamesam. I am not speaking whether he should be maintained here or sent back. There may have been sufficient reasons for his going back and there may be sufficient reasons for keeping his post vacant. But last year when the Financial Secretary presented the Budget it was stated that Dr. Kamesam was brought here to enhance the resources of the country. This year the same officer, though a different person, tells us that Dr. Kamesam has been allowed to go to reduce expenditure.

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PRESIDENT: Where is that stated? All that is stated here is that it is an economy effected by keeping the post vacant and by not appointing anybody to that post.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Then there is Dr. Parameswaran who, the Financial Secretary says, pervades more than three worlds. Perhaps Dr. Parameswaran is doing good work or perhaps not; his retention may be or may not be necessary. But to tell us that a person who came for one purpose and was found unnecessary for that, is still retained in the interests of economy is certainly irony.

Do we not know that the world conditions would have inevitably affected every country and all the more a country like Travancore which depends much on her imports and exports? Do we not want to know the facts as they are? If there is anything wrong, do we not want to co-operate with the administration to maintain the financial position of this country? Do we not possess the spirit of courage and sacrifice to rise to the occasion? To me this is an occasion when a Financial Secretary cannot talk too plainly. Then why all these usual juggleries, and if juggleries are inevitable at least why not perform them with a show of dexterity?

This is probably the first budget that the present Financial Secretary has prepared and he is evidently surprised at his own production, as much surprised as the dear old Eve was when she saw her first child. That is perhaps the reason for one of the most tiresome features of the speech, namely, his attempt at lecturing to us. Why should he throw on our heads all these platitudes and read to us the first principles of political economy? Why should he waste pages explaining the incidence of taxation in this country quite a new thing to him but not so to us.

I am not disappointed at the present financial position of the country. Nor am I the least pessimistic about its future. But even there, I am not prepared to shake hands with the Financial Secretary in his unbridled optimism. He makes us an easy promise of half a crore. Electricity, Clay Refining and State Transport have undoubted possibilities, says he. Yes they have. That is why we have consistently lent our unstinted support to those schemes. He adds "I expect at least half a crore of rupees from these undertakings." Then he goes on to explain the possibilities of each. The Pallivasal would ultimately produce 31000 K. W. The Aluminium factory would ultimately consume 14000 K. W. yielding us an income of Rs. 10½ lakhs. The remaining 17000 K. W. would be consumed by others yielding a revenue of Rs. 20 lakhs. Thus when the Pallivasal produces the maximum possible energy, when the Aluminium factory consumes the maximum amount, and when the whole of the rest finds consumers, a revenue of 30 lakhs of rupees can be expected. He has given us no idea as to when these hopes might be fulfilled. But let us hope that it would be fulfilled some time or other.

The next item is the Clay Refining Factory from which he expects Rs. 10 lakhs.

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Then there remains only the State Transport and Rs. 10 lahks revenue. Unlike the Pallivasal scheme and the Clay refining of which the possibilities have to be examined in the future, we are in a position to know something more definite about the working of the State Transport. The Financial Secretary says that under normal conditions, a return of 25 per cent. might be expected. But is he aware that when preparing the budget for 1114, the return expected was about 50 per cent. and does he know how that expectation actualised itself? The budget estimated a revenue of 3·25 lakhs of rupees. In the revised estimate it came down to Rs. 40,000 and finally it ended in a loss of Rs. 25,000. This experience cooled down the optimism of the Financial Secretary that prepared the current year's budget. He estimated a revenue of 2·67 lakhs *i. e*, about 25 per cent; but the revised estimate has again come down to the old Rs. 40,000 and how the actuals would stand it is too early to say. The State Transport is a pet scheme of the Government. It is a pet scheme for me also. I have always supported it and do support it now. I wish to see it pushed through further till all the routes come under it. I will go one step further and say that I want it even if it be a loss. But I would like to be convinced that the loss is unavoidable. Now I am not in a position to believe that it can be a loss. The Dewan told us that excluding depreciation and interest in investment 12 per 'cent. profit is got. I do not quite understand how it is so. According to the revised estimate the profit is only Rs. 40,000 on Rs. 10 lakhs and it comes only to 4 per cent. It is according to the revised estimate. The actuals have to be seen.

It is said that the loss in 1114 was due to the State Congress agitation. It is true that it did affect it to some extent. But we know that the agitation lasted only for about three months in 1114. Even granting that it did affect it seriously, that is only one side of the picture. The line taken was the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line, which is by far the best route in this country and perhaps the best in South India. The business was a monopoly. Because it was a Government concern, they had not to face the rapacity of the traffic police. The buses were run with crude oil. It is a line where one private individual using petrol run buses, fighting against bitter competition and after satisfying the ravages of the traffic police made himself one of the biggest business men in this country. Passing on to 1115, there was no State Congress trouble; more routes were taken and more sums were invested. Yet even the revised budget estimate was only Rs. 2·67 lakhs, *i. e.*, ·52 less than the estimate for 1114 and the revised estimate is already the same amount as the revised estimate for 1114. These facts are apparantly irreconcilable with the experience so far with the bus services in the country. The most generous interpretation I can put is that there is some fundamental mistake in the management. As this is one of our most important commercial concerns and as we want to push it further, it is high time that the whole question is carefully studied in the light of the experience gained so far.

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MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): May I know whether the member has calculated the charges incurred in connection with depreciation and all the rest of it?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: I am not concerned with those things. Let there be any rate for depreciation. On the budget estimate for Rs. 3 lakhs and over, the net profit was Rs. 25,000 and a budget estimate of Rs. 2·65 lakhs and over has come down to Rs. 40,000 even in the revised estimate. Why should I unnecessarily go into the details. There is some thing seriously wrong between expectations and realisations. It has happened not only for one year but year after year. Therefore it is that I say that there is something fundamentally wrong with the management.

At the beginning of my speech I referred to some changes in the financial policy reflected in the budget and the budget speech. One of them is the idea to finance capital undertaking of a reproductive nature from the available resources of the Government and not by floating loans. The Dewan pointed out that this is not an opportune moment for floating loans. That position we can understand and appreciate. But when the Financial Secretary says that there is no urgent need I must dissociate from him. The Financial Secretary's speech indicates a change of policy and I must say that I do not approve of it.

PRESIDENT: There is no change of policy. Capital works are carried on along the old lines.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Closely related to it is the transfer of the expenditure on reproductive schemes from debt heads to capital expenditure. I consider it a very important and very wrong step. The Financial Secretary says that correct accounting demands it. By the while, correct accounting appears to be a fad with him. The suspended amount from the Cochin Harbour was included in the next year's budget for correct accounting. The securities were revalued and the difference written off in the interests of correct accounting. And this transfer or rather re-transfer was effected again for correct accounting. Evidently the Financial Secretary knows a bit too much of accounting. But this is not merely or mainly a matter of correct accounting. This is a fundamental question concerning the financial policy. The Government account that stood at 1.75 crores at the end of 1104 now stands at minus 2·25 crores. That means 4 crores of rupees have been drawn. And the present arrangement is a necessary and just recognition of the moral responsibility to consider the amount as a loan. Moreover, even from the point of commercial interests, it is necessary to consider them so and keep them separate. It is necessary even from the point of view of budgeting. Now what has been its result in the budget. At one stroke our assets have gone down by about 2 crores and the Government account has been reduced by the same extent and brought down to 2·25. This is a step which no shrewd Financial Secretary would take. This is a very wrong step. His predecessor Mr. Rengaswami Aiyar whom I consider to be a much better expert was strongly supporting the position. I think that ought to have been continued.

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I have nothing more to add. As I have said even at the very outset, in spite of the difficult times, the financial position is sound and encouraging. We thank the administration for the healthy and sound policy that have been followed. We assure the Government that we would grudge no sacrifice to maintain this high position in the face of the worst conditions. Let us hope and pray that the cloud that hangs over us will soon disappear and we will be blessed with an era of even greater prosperity and happiness.

MR. E. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I shall confine my remarks to one or two aspects of the Budget presented by the Financial Secretary. It appears that one is not concerned too much with the figures which are obtained in the Budget. To make myself clear, it is beyond doubt that great attempts are made by Government for providing amounts for the betterment of the country. Money should be found therefor. In other words, all those in charge of the affairs of the Government have to devise ways and means for raising such funds. One method is taxation. Certainly we follow the original laws adopted in this behalf in the past.

But so far as this budget is concerned, though that method is adopted, it appears to me that we are losing faith, as it were, in our ability to raise the necessary funds by the taxation originally adopted. Even though in the budget it is pointed out that we expect to get a certain amount as land revenue, certain amount from customs, and certain amount from Excise, the usual method, to me it appears that there are indications in the budget that we are not going to rely upon those methods as sure methods of raising money for meeting the increasing demands of the State. Other methods are kept in view not only in this budget but even for the past and I notice a departure from the method of raising money. We find in this budget as well an emphasis on that aspect. As was explained by the Dewan forcibly in his speech, an imperceptible or unconscious method of taxation is being pursued. In dealing with the budget, the question really is not how to make money to meet the expenditure for the coming year. That, according to me, will be a very short-sighted policy. That also is necessary. But the budget must lay the foundation, must indicate the resources upon which we can build the future and therefore importance is attached to the other sources of revenue or income. The Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme, the Ceramic Factory, the resuscitation of the Rubber factory, the possibility or the probability of having an aluminium factory or providing for facilities for an alluminium factory which might utilise electric power at Alwaye, the possibility of establishing cement works and the like are being considered, not only considered, are engaging the serious attention of the Government. Some have become facts and some may become facts in the near future. No doubt, there is the commercial transport scheme. I am aware that a good amount of criticism is levelled against the way in which these undertakings have been administered and managed, or to be more accurate, of the results of the operations of these undertakings. I do not mean to say that the criticisms are all unfounded. But we are to bear in

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mind that if the House or the people of the country expected that as soon as these undertakings are brought into operation Travancore will immediately be transformed into a land flowing with milk and honey, certainly there must be restriction in that connection. In all these matters, one must have patience. Every act will take time to bear and yield fruits. The question for us to consider is whether all these undertakings are undertakings to be assumed by the Government in the discharge of its primary objective namely providing for the healthy development of its subjects. That is the primary question for our consideration. I would say that whatever may be qualities and qualifications which are essentially imposed on those who are in charge of affairs of this State, so far as this present age is concerned, that thing is important, a particular qualification is important and the test is, I may be permitted to quote in the words of an old sage :—

"സംഖ്യാതഷ്ഠേഷു കർമ്മസു നിയുക്തായേ യഥാദിഷ്ടമതന്ദ്രം സഖി
ശേഷം വാ കുരുസ്താനമാത്യാൻ കവീത"

That is to say, that person is qualified to be a minister who is able to increase by appropriate and competent acts the potential wealth of the country.

So that must be the policy of the Government. Now look at the functioning of the Government. See whether an honest attempt is made by the Government to increase the potential wealth of Travancore. and make it useful and beneficial for the citizens of the State. If that be so, certainly, we have to congratulate the Government and ourselves upon the bold policy taken by the Government in this matter. But what are we to do? We are to take the necessary step. That is the only way left to us. You say that it was not the original policy. If it were so less money would have been required. But you must have now Public health, education, sanitation and all other matters which were not engaging the attention of the State formerly to the same extent as now. Are we to sit idle? We must explore the position. No doubt, the measures will be calculated to improve trade and commerce. But we are trying to find fault with the methods. What are the methods? These are the methods. So you must act. When we act, certainly in the beginning, there may be some doubts. We learn by experience. So I say, that the policy pursued by Government in this matter, as indicated in this budget and by the framers of the budget is not a balancing of the budget but indicate the lines assumed by the Government for the purpose of getting money for the next coming years. We have only to see whether the policy is sound. To quote again.

"അനുത്ഥാനേ ധ്രുവോനാശഃ
പ്രാപ്തസ്യാനാഗതസ്യ ച
പ്രാപ്യതേ ഫലമുത്ഥാനാ-
ല്ലഭതേ ചാർത്ഥസമ്പദം."

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Inactivity destroys existing wealth as well as wealth which may come into existence in future, and wealth is the fruit of activity.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: May I know the place from which these quotations are taken?

PRESIDENT: The Honourable member is bound to give his reference.

MR. E. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR: Both these quotations are from "Koudilyam" So I am not very much concerned with the question whether it is a surplus or a deficit budget for the next year. No doubt there is a good deal of optimism running through the pages of the budget. And I shall congratulate the Financial Secretary for giving an optimistic budget. But we must consider whether all these expectations will be fulfilled.

Apart from the general remarks, I may refer to one or two particular matters. No doubt, I am perfectly at one with all the members of this House, in saying that the expenditure should be cut short to the required minimum that is, as much as possible, beyond impairing the efficiency of the several institutions which are absolutely essential for the management of the Government. To particularise, let me remark about the pension. People say that pension charges have gone up to such an amount and some how or other it must be cut down. I am a pensioner. One point I wish to emphasise in this connection. There seems to be a misconception regarding the salaries and pensions granted. Salary is not a wage. That is a point which you have to take into consideration. As the great German jurist Von Jhering, says there will be no proportion between the salary apportioned by the Government to a particular individual and the wages he will be able to get from any other source. A real service is involved in his service. A certain amount of sacrifice is involved on the part of the Government servant. That is the principle involved. If the State demands sacrifice on the part of the pensioners for the uplift of the country, they cannot be against the wishes of the Government. A certain amount of sacrifice is needed from all. Why should the pensioners alone be taken for this. Why should not other people in other walks of life who are amassing hoards of money be asked to make some sacrifice. When we were dealing with the constitution of the Credit Bank I had occasion to remark that it would be much better if we could have a law for compulsory saving. A man who is having Rs. 30,000 a year, let him spend Rs. 10,000 and deposit the balance *i. e.*, Rs. 20,000 with Government at one percent or 1½ per cent. loan. It is gratifying to note that in England, the greatest Economist, Keynes has said that compulsory saving is urgently needed in that country. For my part, I am of opinion that a man should be allowed a minimum for his expenditure and he must be asked to hand over the balance of his earnings to Government for a small rate of interest. It is not enough that the pensioners alone are asked to make sacrifices.

I want to say a few words with regard to the policy of combining offices under one and the same officer. I do not know whether, apart from the question of economy, there would be efficiency preserved in

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such a method. If any savings are effected, that would not be after all very tangible. If this method is adopted in the name of economy, I daresay, that it is not economy. If you combine more than one office and put them in charge of one individual officer, then he may need an Assistant. So my submission is, that such methods need not be adopted. If it is an important Department, let it be put under one responsible officer.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): The Budget for 1116 presented by the Financial Secretary is a document of exceptional interest. As observed by him in his speech, it was in an atmosphere of calm and contentment in the country that in July 1939, the then Financial Secretary presented the Budget estimates for the current year. This year's Budget Session, however, is held in an entirely different atmosphere, when Travancore, in common with the rest of India, is in the throes of anxiety and strain due to the repercussions of the devastating world war. That, under such abnormal conditions, it has been possible for the Financial Secretary to present a Budget of the kind now before us *redounds greatly* to the credit of the resources of Travancore and the ability and the foresight with which the finances of the State are managed; and I congratulate the Financial Secretary on the Budget presented by him.

The learned Financial Secretary has rightly pointed out that "the time has come for us to pool our resources, to augment our revenue and to economise our expenditure consistent with the needs of the country and the well-being of her people." That an earnest effort has been and is being made in this direction, is clearly discernible in every item of the Budget figures. And the learned Financial Secretary has clarified the position further by the explanations offered. The provision of about Rs. 10 lakhs for meeting the military and political emergencies that may arise, can in no way be considered to be excessive or extravagant. The methods that have been considered necessary for augmenting the revenue to the required extent, are well-devised, and it is particularly noteworthy that they affect only those who can afford to pay or to sacrifice.

It is indeed a matter for gratification Sir, that in spite of the extraordinary circumstances in which we are placed, the next year's budget is expected to yield a surplus of more than Rs. 13 lakhs. And this result is achieved by all possible care being taken in securing increased revenue without imposing fresh burden on the people and in restricting expenditure without affecting the normal progress of the nation building activities of the State. Special mention has to be made of a new orientation that is being given to the policy of the Forest Department under which it is gratifying to find the forest resources of the State are being developed on a well-panned system. The imposition of a fee on the well-to-do so far as services rendered by the State Medical Institutions are concerned, is only in consonance with what obtains elsewhere, and cannot be taken exception to. But in the working of the scheme great care has to be taken to see that poor patients are in no way affected by the new step contemplated.

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Coming to the expenditure side, Sir, it will be seen that the Nation Building services have received due attention at the hands of those concerned. The Government recognises the fact that 'the primary concern of any enlightened, progressive and sympathetic administration is to make its sons and daughters a band of healthy and well-educated citizens" and that the next need is "the improvement of its resources and the contentment of its masses." And in accordance with the principle thus enunciated, provision, we find, has been made for the development of education, improvement of agriculture, encouragement of cottage industries, up-lift of Backward communities, extension of Co-operative facilities and up-lift of the rural population. The announcement regarding a "Distress Relief Fund" in view of the present condition of Factory labour, their poverty and unemployment will be received with feelings of special satisfaction by all.

It will thus be seen that the Budget presented by the Financial Secretary is one, of which there is every reason to feel gratified, though of course there may be criticisms to be offered and suggestions to be made with regard to the details of the working of particular Departments. The general policy of the Government with reference to the nation building and development services, the reforms already introduced and proposed to be introduced in various spheres, the natural position of the State helping the introduction of such reforms—all these show as stated in the inspiring words with which the Financial Secretary has concluded his speech that there is nothing that Travancore could not achieve under the circumstances in which she is fortunately placed. May those achievements grow from more to more.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*) : I take this opportunity to congratulate the Financial Secretary for the very lucid and comprehensive statement of the Financial position of the State. The estimate of the resources of the State and the possibilities of utilising such resources for the development of the country and the improvement of the material wealth of the people as explained by the Dewan-President has been of great assistance and instruction to us. The Budget presented to the House gives us the assurance if any such assurance were needed that the soundness of our financial position is unassailable. At a time when most countries are facing very stringent financial difficulties it is a matter of pride and gratification to us to learn, after making provision for all the new schemes of industrial development and other measures of public benefit and all the necessary nation building activities of an enlightened State and after making a new provision for about 10 lakhs of rupees for meeting the military and political emergencies that may arise, there is a surplus of about 14 lakhs of rupees in the Budget estimates for the ensuing year. We have all the more reason to be proud of this when we remember that this has been achieved without imposing any additional taxation on the people; for the methods of augmenting the revenue proposed in the Budget do not in any way affect the people. On the contrary these sources of revenue have mostly been lost to the State for some time and are now

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sought to be recovered. The increase in the income-tax and super tax automatically results from the rectification of a mistake on account of which the State had to lose every year, the income due from foreign companies and firms doing business in this country. Such are the cases of taxes due on excess profits and on account of the arrangements in the case of Cardamom sales. These are really no new taxes but new income which otherwise would have been lost to us. This is a substantial income without in any way adding to the burden of the people.

It is usual to examine critically the forecasts made by the Financial Secretary in regard to the income of the Budgeted year; but such criticisms are often found to be very wide of the mark unless these forecasts have been made recklessly and without regard to probabilities. It seems to me that the Financial Secretary's estimates are founded on reasonable expectations and probabilities and are likely to turn out to be more or less correct. There is usual depression however at the present juncture and trade, especially in cocoanut products, is at a stand still and large sections of the population have been thrown completely out of employment. The capacity of the people to pay and to spend will at this rate be affected but I trust the situation will improve, and that the anticipated revenue will be realised. It is necessary however to be prepared to meet the situation if the present trade depression continues.

[At this stage, the Dewan-President vacated the Chair and it was occupied by the Deputy President.]

I see that Government has not neglected—as it used once to do—to use great care and attention in exploring all the latent possibilities of realisation of revenue and that this is bound to result in a substantial yield without adding to the burden of the majority of the tax-payers. The re-organisation of the Income tax Department, the appointment of the special staff for the detection of tobacco smuggling, and the appointment of Court fee Stamp Inspectors are some of the steps taken in this direction. Side by side with this method of preventing leakage of revenue, Government have been using all their efforts to discover new sources of income—whether large or small—to avoid additional taxation as far as possible. As an instance I will only refer to the claim for a 10% share of the profits made by industrial and manufacturing companies getting aid from Government.

The expenditure on account of Capital Works and other measures of great public utility undertaken by Government during the last few years has been immense. The Pallivasal Scheme, Schemes of water-supply in all important centres of population, the extension of the telephone system, the Ceramic Factory, the State Transport, the University, the Town Planning and the Drainage Scheme in Trivandrum, the socio-economic measures for the education and uplift of the backward classes, the rural uplift scheme, schemes of cottage and other industries are some of the measures that have cost a few crores of rupees to the State. Besides meeting the increasing normal expenditure of a most progressive and enlightened State the Government during this period

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had to forego a substantial portion of its revenue on account of remissions of tax and had also to make provision for extraordinary expenditure almost every year. I do not see whether there will be any justification for anyone to say that our finances are unstable or that they are unsound. The management of our finances was so very efficient that there seemed to require no effort at all in putting so many schemes into operation at the same time. Those who were interested in asserting that the financial position of the State has been weakened in proportion to the reduction of its surplus investments must have realised how foolish and unfounded their criticisms have been.

The cry used to be raised (in this House) several years ago, that we have reached the limit of the natural resources of the State and that any further expenditure will have to be met out of fresh taxtion. But we have found that there are resources still, but only the proper head was needed to find out such resources. We have only just begun to get a return for our investments on capital and reproductive works, and apart from the beneficient results accruing to the people at large, the return to Government on account of these investments is bound to increase in course of time. One noticeable feature in regard to all the industrial scheme now taken up by Government is that all these schemes are pushed on with so much courage, steadiness and perseverance that there can be no doubt about their ultimate success. This has unfortunately not been our experience in the past in this country. Government attempts in the direction of industrial and commercial enterprises were so feeble and half-hearted that loss and failure were the inevitable results of all those schemes. There was a time when this State maintained a number of experts educated in Europe at the expense of Government, as for instances, the tanning expert, the oil expert and so forth. The failures in these attempts were so many that people had really lost all hope in such Government enterprises. We trust and we now feel confident that those days are gone and that a new one totally different era of industrial expansion is already in sight.

The policy proposed to be pursued in regard to the investigation of the mineral resources of the State is bound to yield very beneficient results in the near future. The investigation of such resources has till now been practically neglected and though private agencies were licensed to work mines and other mines here and there the profit the Government used to get in those days was very small and these private agencies were not able to achieve anything tangible. The mines worked were only surface mines and there were about seven of them in 1099. Owing to want of capital and plant most of them had to be abandoned. Till the passing of Act III of 1103 (The Mines and Minerals Act), prospecting of mines in private lands was impossible. No steady policy in regard to the investigation of the mineral resources of the State has ever been pursued by Government. The policy now proposed to be taken up is therefore full of potentialities and we feel confident that this policy will be pursued with steadiness and energy.

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

It is a matter for sincere gratification to us to learn that the Aluminium Factory is going to be established very soon at Alwaye. The discovery of limestone in large quantities, we trust, will also enable Government to help the development of cement manufacture in this country. These large industrial concerns will go a long way to give employment to a very large number of people and are sure to bring in a vast income to the State. The establishment of big industries like these is bound to transform our country into one of the great industrial countries in India and will be an incentive to the promotion of other industries in the future.

It is indeed distressing to hear that there are disruptive elements still lingering in this country to promote mischief. It is the duty of the Government as well as the people to see that any repetition of the disturbances we have witnessed is nipped in the bud. No disturbances of any kind shall ever be allowed to obstruct the path of progress in this State. It is easy for a few individuals to mislead the poor and the ignorant and to create untold suffering. The Judgment in the Pangode case amply bears out the fact that on account of the mischief created by a few, a great many poor had to suffer. It is the duty of every country to be prepared to defend itself both from enemies outside and from within. Any amount spent for this purpose will not be out of place and we are glad to know that Government has proposed to make a start in this direction.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertala*): Sir, I am not in a position to congratulate the Financial Secretary for the pain he has taken to give us an apparent surplus. No Financial Secretary has hitherto been so presumptuous as to take a long jump over the previous year's Budget estimate, knowing that he would fall by the jump in a slippery ground. He wants us to believe that our income for 1115 will be increasing by leaps and bounds in an year of extreme economic depression, with war chaos to boot. Sir, he also wants us to believe that our income in the customs revenue will be increased by 16½ lakhs of rupees in 1116. I think it is inexcusable, if not unpardonable, to expect such an increase next year with the knowledge that our expectations will fall far short of anticipation due to the difficulties of export and import during this war.

Sir, I may be excused when I say that his expectation of an increase in the revenue through customs, super-tax, consumption of electricity by an Aluminium Factory, the Rubber Factory, Commercial Transport and the Land Revenue, totalling about Rs. 21 lakhs more than the previous year's budget estimate, is a vain hope. I shall illustrate how and why it is a vain hope. The forecast of any number of crores is easy but realisation is difficult. Perhaps to adjust the heavy expenditure of about 271 lakhs of Rupees, he is bound to show a larger income and has drawn up his Budget. Sir, I shall illustrate my position.

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From the report of the working of the Transport Department for the year 1114, it is found that the total receipt is about Rs. 8,82,531 and the total expenditure Rs. 6,92 390. The net receipt is Rs. 1,90,141. Deducting the depreciation charge for 1113 and 1114, the preliminary expenses and general charges and insurance and general reserve fund all amounting to Rs. 2,11,919, the excess expenditure will be Rs. 21,778. Further, we have to add to this, the amount we have been getting from the private bus owners before the introduction of the Transport System, such as the testing fees for 150 buses, the Municipal tolls and the approximate loss of toll etc. amounting to Rs. 65,060. Thus, the total loss for the year 1114, is Rs. 86,838. This means that in the working of the Transport system, we have suffered a loss in 1114. Sir, it shall not be understood that I am making a malpropaganda. It is simply for direction, caution and guidance that I bring this matter to the notice of this House.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether this includes the sum spent by the P. W. D. in improving the roads?

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: No, I have not included that.

Again, from the report for the year 1114, it will be seen that at the end of 1114.we had 34 buses extra. But, the fact that we had to purchase 28 new buses when we started the Trivandrum-Kottayam line, shows that all these 34 buses have become useless. I wonder how these 34 buses have become useless within one and a half year's time. If they are useless, their value is also a loss.

Then, if we go to the tyre account, we will see that the buses have run a total distance of 31,91,696 miles. At the rate of one anna, four pies per mile, the department had spent Rs. 2 lakhs and odd. Sir, the account maintained by the private bus owners had convinced us that by spending four pies per mile, they were able to run their transport. Therefore, if we had also purchased the tyres ourselves without the contract being given to any foreign body X or Y thereby enabling them to make a profit, we could have made a profit of Rs. 2 lakhs. We have our Rubber Factory; we have sufficient quantity of rubber in our country and we can manufacture our tyres and we could have made a profit of two lakhs of rupees. As we are not getting the expected income from the working of this system, I think that there is some thing wrong some where in the working. Therefore, I suggest that if any extension of the Transport System is to be made, it should be done, only after careful scrutiny, consideration, control and guidance by an advisory committee consisting of officials and non-officials. Till such a committee submit a report on going through the *pros* and *cons* of the working no extension shall be made.

I wish to offer a few remarks in regard to General Administration also. Sir, in spite of repeated requests, we find that the cost of the administration is on the increase. How can we check it, is the question. One of my suggestions is that out of these Rs. one crore and twenty five lakhs spent on pay and pension, a reasonable cut of 15 to 25

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup]

per cent. on Rs. 100 and above per mensem should be made, considering the increased value of money from 1107 onwards. This would enable us to reduce the expenditure by Rs. 10 lakhs.

Secondly, my suggestion is that the duration of Government service should be made ten or fifteen years and towards the end of the service, by provident fund arrangements or some such method, a bonus should be given to the man who retires from the service. I do not mean that this should be brought into effect affecting the present officers. But, it shall be the policy hereafter. I do not want to offend the existing members in the service.

MR. E. SUBRAMONIA AIYAR: Why not extend the scheme so as to affect them also so that they may also be able to make a sacrifice?

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Yes; considering the increase of the money value, they also can suffer a portion of their pay, especially in cases where the pay or pension is above Rs. 100 per mensem.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Will there be then the possibility of raising Rs. 10 lakhs?

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Yes. By effecting a cut of 25 per cent. on salaries of persons and pensioners who receive more than Rs. 100 per mensem, we can effect a saving amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs.

Then, Sir, the policy of importing foreigners into the service has to be condemned, especially when efficient and qualified Travancoreans are available and are waiting at the Government's doors.

One word about the policy of Government in giving special holidays for the State. These special holidays are sanctioned with a view to see that the work progresses even on such holidays. But in the case of Judicial Department, no work is possible. The illustration that I am citing below will show how the intention of the Government has been frustrated. The 32nd Mithunam 1115 was declared a Hindu holiday by the Government. At Alleppey where we have four courts, in the First Bench (the District Court), we had on that day only the Sheristadar, two clerks and two peons to carry on the office. No work was done on that day in that bench, on the trial side. In the Second Bench there was only the Presiding Officer and one clerk. There also no work was possible on that day. Similar was the fate in the Principal Munsiff's Court. In the Principal Munsiff's Court, the presiding officer, one or two clerks and three peons were alone present. Practically, no work was done in that Court also. In the Additional Munsiff's Court, all except a peon were Hindus and practically there was no court. The Government may be pleased to consider whether such holidays tend to increase the quantity of work turned out or whether they impede the progress of work in the courts. The principle of granting these special holdays should be reconsidered to avoid the difficulty encountered by the Judicial Department.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, order. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 P. M.

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[The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2 P. M. with the Deputy President in the Chair.]

NEW MEMBER.

Khan Bahadur G. S. Abdulkarim Sahib Suhrawardy, Inspector-General of Police was sworn in.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(*contd.*)

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, I desire to make some observations on the policy of conducting Public Examinations at the end of the III Form by the Education Department. I think it is not useful or advantageous both to Government and to students. The Director has answered today to my question that it was intended to regulate promotions. Promotions have been made every year and it was under the control of the Division Inspector. Even though the examination may bring some money, the Director has said it is not going to contribute much to the State Treasury, but it is intended as a fee for the examination just to cover the expenditure. As candidates are not going to be benefitted and as this additional taxation is going to fall on the shoulders of the poor tax payers, the parents, I would request the Government to stop this, at least during the period of depression.

Sir, I congratulate the Government on their generosity and sympathy in allotting 5 lakhs of rupees for helping the unemployed labour. But the Government shall not allow this amount to lapse. To ensure that and to secure speedy and efficient work, I pray that a new sub-division may be created for this work. I understand that the present sub-divisions are already overburdened. Therefore unless and until a sub-division as I suggested is created for the purpose of this work I fear the amount will be allowed to lapse. I hope the work contemplated will not be confined to a particular portion but it will be spread over different places of need such as Shertala, Alleppey, Quilon, Vaikom, Kuttanad and Ambalapuzha. The labourers in water logged area have no land to perch during flood which is very common. Vast areas in each pakuthy afford accommodations for cattle and men during flood. Several cross roads and canals should be made for Shertalla to make it the Venice of Travancore. Ambalapuzha-Thiruvala road, Alleppey-Thanneermukom road, Arattuvazhi road and the Alleppey-Changanacherry canal with Kavalam may be finished.

Then about the Industrial Department. Practically almost all sections have been absorbed under the University. Therefore some more work must be given to the Industrial Director, or that Department should be abolished. Any amount spent on the Industrial Department under the present condition will be an utter waste. I congratulate Government on their policy of Rural Reconstruction. Several applications have been made to the Government for starting Village Unions in different places. I am afraid they are not sanctioned and the amount allotted has not been spent.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Very few applications have been received.

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MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I myself have submitted an application for starting the Village Union at Champakulam some ten months ago. I am afraid all the amount sanctioned was not used for the Rural Reconstruction work.

Coming on to the Medical Department, Sir, the amount allotted is quite insufficient. There is a general complaint that the supply of medicine is scanty and is insufficient to meet the demand for the year. There is still another complaint that the inpatients are given only half-diet. More dispensaries may be started in places where there is no proper communications. For example in Shertala, the distance between hospitals is more than 6 to 8 miles. To reach the hospital at the time of need through the sandy regions is a difficult task. In Kuttanad, though we have two dispensaries at a distance of 5 miles each, the people are not making use of them regularly, due to the lack of proper communications. In such places, the Government may be pleased to sanction at least one grant-in-aid Ayurvedic Vydiasala in each pakuthy. A veterinary hospital may be started in the centre of Kuttanad for the medical aid of cattle of the agriculturist. To take the cow or the buffaloe to a distance of 8 miles to Alleppey through canoes at the time of urgency, is not an easy joke.

With these observations and with prayers that Sri Padmanabha may bless the Financial Secretary for the fructification of his forecast, I resume my seat.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): Sir, there is no reason for exhibiting any enthusiasm over the present budget proposals presented by the Financial Secretary. The only test of a sound budget is whether it is calculated in the best interest of the people. If that be the criterion I see no reason for congratulating the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary was saying that we are going to end with a surplus of 13·6 lakhs. As a matter of fact this is achieved by resorting to additional taxes such as, the enhancement of transport charges, levying fees on medical treatment, examination fees at the end of the 3rd form and increasing rates of income tax and super tax and cutting down the rate of interest in the Anchal Savings Bank deposits. Sir, the Cochin budget which leaves a surplus of Rs. 5·3 lakhs is effected without resorting to such fresh taxation at all. Besides, the Dewan Sir R. K. Shanmukhom Chetty has mentioned that the State will resort to retrenchments in the expenditure in cases of necessity. Then Sir, the Financial Secretary has stated that he has effected some retrenchment in his office. In that respect he deserves congratulation. On the whole this is the worst budget I have ever seen. The Financial Secretary has stated in paragraph 73 of his budget speech that our expenditure has increased by leaps and bounds. The question is how to meet the expenditure. Is it by increased taxation? Increased taxation is impossible because it is a time of economic depression that is aggravated by the great and sudden European war initiated by a mischievous and powerful person, namely Herr Hitler. The only course open to Government is by cutting down the expenditure of the State.

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When Dewan Bahadur V. S. Subramonia Aiyar was the Dewan of this State in 1107 he appointed a retrenchment committee to go into the question. I was a non-official member of that committee. Similarly I hope a retrenchment committee will be appointed as early as possible to go into the question.

Now, Sir, this is the time for the honourable members to review the activities of the several departments and criticise the budget in a general way. First of all I shall deal with the Police Department. The Police Department is over-staffed, particularly the office of the Inspector-General. There are three officers, namely, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police on Rs. 300-400, the Assistant Inspector-General of Police on Rs. 200-250 and the Office Superintendent on Rs. 100-150. The Office Superintendent may be necessary. But there is absolutely no necessity for the other two high grade officers. So, retrenchment is very necessary and is possible also. There are also other provisions for the Special Police and for the continuance of the Armed Reserve. There is no necessity for these because there is peace and tranquillity in the country. There are no communist activities in Travancore. Probably it may be found outside Travancore. There is no communal problem here. No Hindu-Muslim problem is found here as in other parts of India. One day I went to see the Inspector-General of Police to speak to him on a matter of public interest. It was a fine morning. The Inspector-General was cheery after his morning coffee. He told me " Mr. Nadar, in this part of the country Muslims recommend Hindus and Hindus recommend Muslims and they live like brothers". All these things will show there is no reason for the continuance of a special police. One another thing can be said about the travelling allowances of the Inspectors and A. S. Ps. From the quarterly civil list it is found that Inspectors get Rs. 16 as P. T. A. and A. S. Ps. Rs. 40 as P. T. A. In fact they do not go to the scene of offence at their expense but travel at the expense of the public. This is found in a larger measure in rural areas. I have seen Inspectors always travelling in special cars, so much so, I believe that 90 to 95 per cent of the low paid officers going in special cars are corrupt officers. Otherwise how can they afford to go in a car. To maintain a car they will have to spent some 40 to 50 rupees a month.

Is it possible for an officer drawing Rs. 100 or Rs. 70 a month to maintain a pleasure car? It is impossible. It is possible for the Inspector-General but not for the Inspectors drawing Rs. 100 and below. When a police officer has to go and inspect a place it is only when the party approaching him bring a pleasure car that the Police officer goes to the spot. Such a sort of thing should go.

Then I should like to say a few words about the working of the Defence of Travancore Act. I am not concerned with the passing of this Act or of the rules under that Act. The Act has been passed without consulting the Legislature. I might even go to the extent of saying that in so doing the Government have introduced a lawless law. But I want to say how persons arrested under that Act and imprisoned

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[Mr. K. Narayanaperumal Nadar.]

are treated. They are not to be treated like ordinary criminals of the land. They ought to be treated in a proper manner. In British India people who have committed political offences are treated very generously. For instance, Mahatma Gandhi and C. Rajagopalachari and others were treated in the proper manner when they were imprisoned. But in this country the people who have been arrested and detained under the Defence of Travancore Act are not at all properly treated. It may be said that these are not big people and that they are not like Mahatma Gandhi or C. Rajagopalachari. But in their way they too are big people. For us they are big people and therefore they must be treated in the proper manner. Moreover, they are detained in the lock-ups for several days. In reply to a question of mine, the Inspector-General of Police said that Mr. N. S. Krishna Pillai, B. A., B. L, who was confined in the Puthenchanthai lock-up was removed to the Aranmula lock-up. When I put a supplementary question why he was transferred, he said that Aranmula is a better place. I do not know how far it is true. The Chief Secretary in answer to a question said that 14 chuckrams is spent for the daily food of these men and that no separate amount is allotted for their clothing and other necessaries. 14 chuckrams is a very small sum and something like Rs. 2 must be given. For, after they are released, they will be very useful to the society. Some may do service to the State as lawyers, some as judges and some as doctors. Some of them might have lived a luxurious life and they deserve fruit-salad and ice cream. The best way of establishing peace in the land is by releasing all political prisoners as was done some twenty days ago in Jodhpur. To have them in jail is more embarrassing than to have them outside, just as Mahatma Gandhi in jail is more dangerous than when he is outside. In the Administration Report at pages 12 and 13 something is said about the political movement and it is said that the people in the movement were responsible for destroying bridges and culverts and for assaulting officers. There is some truth in that. But who was at least indirectly responsible for that? It was the Government, because Government were not able to move with the spirit of the times. What is the spirit of the times? It was the granting of an increasing share in the administration of the country, in other words, the granting of responsible Government. That was not granted and that was the cause of all this mischief. Look at Cochin where there is the dyarchical form of Government. No doubt dyarchy has its own disadvantages and defects. It failed in Madras. It failed in Bombay. But some say that the failure was not due to the inherent defect of 1919 Act but on account of the financial insolvency of the times. Be that as it may, even the dyarchical form of Government is half way towards responsible Government. In the Cochin Legislative Council a certain member moved yesterday a motion that the Dewan ought to be replaced by a Council of ministers. My submission is that the Travancore Government must act with the spirit of the times. If in any country there is a movement and if that movement is popular and constitutional, any attempt on the part of Government to suppress that movement will be like Canute's attempt to command the waves.

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About the freedom of the press I wish to speak.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You have one minute more.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : There is the Press Regulation of 1100 and Acts I and X of 1114. If an editor of a newspaper commits an offence he can ordinarily be tried under the penal provisions of the ordinary law of the land. But by these special laws, extraordinary laws, power is given to the executive to seize the press and so forth. It is said that even during the Hindu period the freedom of the press existed, even when Chanakya expounded the doctrone of absolute kingship. During the Moghul period also, except during the reign of Aurangazeb freedom of the press was not restricted. It was only after the British people came that the freedom of the press in India has been curtailed. Acts I and X of 1114 should be repealed, because if this law is in force, popular journalists cannot exist in the country. There was a time when Travancore produced such excellent journalists as the late Ramakrishna Pillai of Neyyattinkara.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Sir, I want only two minutes more because I have to deal with the labour problem. Sir, in this country there is no full time Labour Commissioner and the present Labour Commissioner cannot attend to his work properly as he has other work to attend to also. To my question as to the number of strikes in 1114 he answered that there were 26 strikes. Asked whether any enquiry was made into the cause of those strikes, he said that no formal enquiry was conducted by the Government and that the situation was brought under control by the joint efforts of the magistracy and the police. Sir, this is the way in which the Travancore Government deal with the labour problem. The labourers are not allowed to ventilate their grievances. Sir, sometime back a meeting was held in Manavalakurichi by the labourers for the purpose of ventilating their grievances. I was the president at that meeting. The District Magistrate, the Police officer and 25 constables were present at the meeting. After the president's speech was over, the general secretary began his speech. And then I got information that the District Magistrate was about to make the meeting an unlawful gathering. Then acting wisely and not in a cunning manner, I disbanded the meeting lest serious consequences should follow. So, labour is not allowed to ventilate its grievances in this State. Moreover, I find that when a dispute arises between the labourers and the employers, that even-handed justice is not obtained from the learned Commissioner.

I want one minute more to speak about the judiciary.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You have exceeded your time already and no more time will be given.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, like most of my predecessors, I too wish to congratulate the Financial Secretary—not for any merit in the Budget —not for the quality of the Budget--not for anything special regarding the Budget - but because he has found out a peculiar method to show a surplus of Rs. 8,67,000. Sir, from a

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[Mr. M. R. Narayana Pillai.]

close study of the Budget it is not seen how this Budget could be called a 'Surplus Budget' by the Financial Secretary. He doos not even appear to understand what a surplus budget is. It is a surplus budget where no additional taxation is to be levied and all the necessities of the country have been provided for and nobody is subjected to any grievance. The method of budgeting in Travancore is something very peculiar. Year after year, the Financial Secretary comes to this House and receives high encomium for preparing surplus budgets. And the result is that there is a deficit at the end of the year. For the year 1114 there was an anticipated surplus of Rs. 1,42,000. Actually, the year ended with a deficit of over Rs. 2 lakhs. The budgeting system in Travancore requires close study. According to the present Financial Secretary himself, "the standard of budgeting under the heads during the entire quinquennium shows in most cases a wide gap between the estimates and the actuals, all of which point only to the need for an investigation of the reasons leading to these results with a view to taking necessary steps to secure closer budgeting". That is what the new Financial Secretary has said.

As against an anticipated total revenue of Rs. 261 lakhs in 1114, the amount actually collected was Rs. 253 lakhs. The causes that the Financial Secretary has given for this are various, and I may add two to them. One is the over estimation of income, and the other is the miscalculation of expenditure.

In regard to the Transport Department, what I wished to say has already been referred to by some of my predecessors, and I do not wish to repeat it.

As for the officers in service on extended terms, I must say that this is a very unwholesome practice obtaining in Travancore. Officers past their normal age for retirement, continue to be in service on extension granted by the Government for some reason or other, and most of them are in receipt of high salaries. Over and above this, we know that people who retired on pension here or outside are recruited into the State Service as if there is a dearth for men younger, energetic and educated in this country. This state of affairs must not be allowed to continue.

As regards pensions, the Financial Secretary says that in 1114 there was an over-expenditure under 14 non-voted heads, to the tune of Rs. 1,18,000 and that out of this an amount of Rs. 1,06,000 happens to be under "pensions" alone. We can more or less understand how this happened.

MR. S. SUNDRARAJAN (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, on a point of order. The honourable member is apparently referring to the Public Accounts Committee Report in this particular matter. Those are things which have not been considered by the Committee. It is only after the Committee has met and considered those details the House can take cognisance of that matter. All the same, I may say that procedure has not been allowed anywhere. I do not know what this House has adopted in respect of this matter.

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MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: It is my time that is being taken up by the Financial Secretary.

The Government have funds for experimenting on costly scheme. The weaving industry in Travancore gets very little help from the Government. In British India the hand-loom industry is being munificiently subsidized by the Government. Here, what we actually see is an allotment of Rs. 500 in the Budget for 1116, for "carrying on propaganda for cottage industries". The Industries Department is, I may say, one of the many ornaments of the Government doing practically nothing.

Then there is the Agricultural Department, where students with general educational qualification are given training in agriculture, but are unable to make themselves useful to the country. They do not get an opportunity. All the same the officers in the Department get their monthly pay, no matter whether the public are benefited or not. With regard to this Agricultural Department I have a word more to say, and one suggestion I venture to make. When the Government are planning to reorganising the Village Panchayat System it would be well if they appoint a set of trained agriculturists, whether they have University degrees or not, to each pakuthy so that they could serve as demonstration officers according to the schemes advised by the Director of Agriculture who is already acquainted with the existing conditions in the country.

In 1114, in the P. W. D., there was a net saving of nearly 34% of the total allotment, equivalent to Rs. 17 lakhs. Many of the urgent wants of the country were neglected by the department. Essential needs were starved and when the Chief Engineer is asked the reason, he has a very easy way of answering. He says, "want of funds".

(At this stage the President resumed the Chair.)

With a saving of Rs. 17 lakhs at his disposal, the Chief Engineer could have met several public needs. As a result of the savings under the P. W. D. as well as the irrigation branch, not only the people but even the Government are put to loss. The Government lose their revenue because irrigation works are delayed. There is a new excuse for delays in the P. W. D., and that is the formation of the Advisory Board. If anything is asked about the condition of a particular road, the Chief Engineer conveniently refers the questioner to the P. W. D. Advisory Board.

Public opinion got hoarse in its cry for the separation of Finance from the Accounts Department. One fine morning the Government would wake up and say they consider the separation of the Departments necessary for good government. The next morning they may find it otherwise. Very recently the Government issued a Press Note on this subject. In the present Budget I find the post of the Financial Secretary kept vacant. This is a beneficial office and it is only in the interest of good Government that the office of the Financial Secretary is separated because he is an officer who could cater to the needs of all the departments more properly.

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[Mr. M. R. Narayana Pillai.]

Our fancy for ornaments is increasing and I say that it must be curtailed and that in time.

The salary of high officers must be reduced. Except in the case of the Dewan, the Chief Secretary, and the Judges of the High Court, I suggest that no officer shall receive more than Rs. 500 as salary per month.

In the matter of pensions I am of the opinion that no officer should be allowed to draw more than Rs. 150 as pension a month.

There are the process servers in Civil Courts who draw a pay of Rs. 9 to 11..... .....[The member paused for a moment to draw the attention of the Chair.]

PRESIDENT: The remarks of the honourable members are addressed to the Chair. The Chair is an impersonal one. In a court the Judge has to hear the arguments and dispose of them and therefore the lawyers have to see to the moods of the judges. Here it is a different thing. It is wholly an impersonal Chair, and the references may or may not even reach the ear of the impersonal Chair.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am used to this practice in the courts, Sir, and that was the reason for my stopping when the President was occupied otherwise.

PRESIDENT: Quite so.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: The process servers of civil courts get only Rs. 9 to 11 as salary and they have to travel long distances on duty and get no batta or mileage for the journey. The Government collect a large amount by way of process fees every year from the litigant public. And the process servers are actually starved in the matter of pay. My suggestion therefore is that there should be no post which does not carry a pay of at least Rs. 15 per mensem, in any Government department.

Sir, the Dewan-President referred to Trade Agencies. That is a splendid idea. If only the Government would spend a lakh of rupees or say Rs. 50,000 a year, (out of their surplus!) I can assure them hat there would be a return of not less than Rs 10 lakhs every year.

PRESIDENT: Supposing the Government were to spend Rs. 20,000 for that matter, can the member assure a return of ten times that amount?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: The Government will take note of the promise made by the member and they will try to exact it.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I shall certainly honour my promise.

Our Cashew-nut Industry fetches nearly a crore of rupees every year. The coir mats and cocoanuts sell to the value of Rs. 4 crores. There may be difficulties to sell these commodities now in foreign markets on account of the present international situation. If Trade Agencies are properly organised in India, I am sure they will yield very good results. The Dewan-President himself said that the Government tried an Agency and failed. They failed miserably and deservedly so, he said. With due respect to that sentiment I must say

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that Travancore had no share in that failure. The Trade Agent was a Bombay merchant and was appointed for Travancore purposes in Bombay. He was a stranger not only to Travancore but even to the work for which he was appointed. From my personal acquaintance of him, I may say that he was not fitted for this work. Otherwise he would not have been a failure.

PRESIDENT: He now gets Rs. 800 as salary for doing more or less the same kind of work elsewhere.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I wish he does not become a failure there also.

The Budget for the year 1116 is one full of inflated figures, and is not at all a satisfactory Budget for Travancore. However, the people of Tiruvalla are very grateful to the Government because they have sanctioned funds for the construction of the Kozhencherry bridge as well as other minor works in that taluk. Nothing seems to have been done by the P. W. D. to provide sufficient drinking water in the coastal regions. Though money was allotted last year for this purpose, no work was done. The attention of the Government should turn in that direction also.

In conclusion I wish, in all humility, to invite the pointed attention of the Government, charged with the care of 5 million and odd Travancoreans, to the fact that peace and prosperity at home are more important than prestige and publicity outside.

SRY. K. DEVAKI ANTHARJANAM (*Nominated*): സർ, വളരെ വിശദവും വിദഗ്ദ്ധവുമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് രൂപീകരണത്തിൽ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയെ എത്രതന്നെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചാലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ കോശസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി ശരിയായ ഒരു ചിത്രീകരണം നമ്മൾക്കു നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പല പ്രകാരത്തിൽ അസ്വാസ്ഥ്യം നിറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു് വരവിനെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചിലവിനെ ചുരുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാവശ്യമാണു്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനപരമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി പല സ്കീമുകൾ ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പള്ളിവാസൽ പദ്ധതി, കളിമൺ വ്യവസായം, ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഇതിൽനിന്നെല്ലാം നല്ല ആദായം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് നമുക്കു വിശ്വസിക്കാവുന്നതാണു്. സർവ്വകലാശാലയുടെ ആവിർഭാവത്തോടുകൂടി ഗവേഷണശാഖകൾ ആരംഭിക്കുകയും തന്മൂലം സാമ്പത്തികവർദ്ധനയ്ക്കുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ തെളിയുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. കാർഷികമായും വ്യവസായപരമായും പല പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ വരുത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ അഭിനന്ദനാർഹമാണു്. ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും പരിഷ്കൃതരീതിയിലുള്ള കൃഷി നടത്താൻ ഉല്പകതരാകാത്തതിനാലും സാധാരണ കൃഷിക്കാർ വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു്. വനങ്ങളിലുള്ള ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങൾ കൂട്ടത്തലായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു് പരിഷ്കൃ

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[Sry. K. Devaki Antharjanam.]

തരീതിയിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിലേക്ക് ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാവശ്യമാണ്. ഇവിടെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന നെല്ലുകൊണ്ടോ മരച്ചീനികൊണ്ടോ മറ്റു ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളേക്കൊണ്ടോ നമ്മൾക്കു ജീവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും നെല്ലും അരിയും ധാരാളംവരുത്തുകിലേ മതിയാകൂ. അതിലേക്കു പണം വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്നു ലോകത്തിൽ ഏതു രാജ്യവും വ്യവസായം ഒന്നുകൊണ്ടാണ് ധനസ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഉയർന്നുവരുന്നതു്. അതിലേക്കുള്ള ചില മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിലും ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതോടുകൂടി തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ കുറയുമെന്നും, നിരാശയും വിധ്വംസകതയും നശിക്കുമെന്നും തട്ടിവിട്ടാൽ, രാജ്യത്തിൽ സമാധാനവും ഐശ്വര്യവും വർദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നും നമ്മൾക്കു വിശ്വസിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ജോലിയില്ലാതെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ജീവരക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഇന്നു നടത്തിവരുന്ന അന്നവിതരണവും, ജോലി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പുതിയ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും അഭിനന്ദനാർഹങ്ങളാണ്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലും സാമ്പത്തികകാര്യങ്ങളിലും വളരെ പിന്നോക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമൈശ്വര്യങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നതനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ കുറേക്കൂടി വിപുലപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ വരവിൻെറ നല്ല ഒരു ഭാഗം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതു് രാഷ്ട്രത്തിൻെറ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യവുമാണ്. വരുന്ന കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു് ഏകദേശം 8 ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ ഇതിലേക്കു് ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എല്ലാ സ്കൂളുകളിലും മാതൃകാ കൃഷിത്തോട്ടങ്ങൾ നിർമ്മിക്കുകയും, കൂടിൽ വ്യവസായങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള പരിശീലനം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്താൽ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയ്ക്കു കുറച്ചൊരു ശാന്തത വരുവാനുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്.

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തിനും ഗതാഗതത്തിനും നല്ല സംഖ്യകൾ ആണ്ടുതോറും ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതു് എന്തുകൊണ്ടും അത്യാവശ്യവുമാണ്. ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചാരയോഗ്യമല്ലാത്ത വഴികൾ ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. ജനങ്ങൾ തിങ്ങിത്താമസിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തുകൂടെ വാഹനങ്ങൾ പോകത്തക്ക റോഡുകൾ വേണ്ടതു് ആവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. പുതിയ അഡ്വൈസറിക്കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശം മൂലം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ സഞ്ചാര സൌകര്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ പരിപൂർണ്ണതയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി നല്ല സംഖ്യ ആണ്ടുതോറും ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതു് എന്തുകൊണ്ടും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അടുത്ത കാലത്തായി പല ആശുപത്രികളിലും "പ്രസവ വാ

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ഡുകം'' ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എല്ലാ ആശുപത്രികളിലും തന്നെ ''പ്രസവ വാർഡുകം'' നിമ്മിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രസവം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള രോഗങ്ങളും ദുർമരണങ്ങളും നാൾക്കുനാൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരികയാണ്. ഇതിനൊരു പോംവഴി അടുത്തുള്ള ആശുപത്രികളിൽ പ്രസവവാർഡുകം നിമ്മിക്കുകയാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേറയും മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറധ്യക്ഷയുടേയും ശ്രദ്ധ ഇതിലേക്കു ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഒരുകാലത്ത് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനും മറ്റും വളരെ മുന്നിട്ടുനിന്നിരുന്ന മലയാളബ്രാഹ്മണരുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ നില വളരെ ശോചനീയമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. പൂർവീകമായ സംസ്കാരവും ധനസ്ഥിതിയും വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയി. കാലോചിതമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമോ ധനാഗമമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളോ പരിചയമില്ലാതെയായി. ആകപ്പാടെ തിശംകു സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിലാണ്. മുകളിലോട്ടു കയറാനുള്ള ശക്തിയുമില്ല, താഴോട്ടു വീഴാനുള്ള മനസ്സുമില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ സമുദായം വിഷമിക്കുകയാണ്. മലയാളബ്രാഹ്മണർ സാധാരണ ജന്മിമാരാണെന്നാണ് ധരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ജന്മവസ്തുക്കളുള്ള കുറെ ആളുകളുണ്ട്. അവർ ജന്മമുക്കരംകൊണ്ടു ജീവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്ന് സംശയമാണ്. സമുദായത്തിലെ പുരുഷന്മാർക്ക് കുറച്ചു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു താല്പര്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും സ്ത്രീകളുടെ നില നേരെ മറിച്ചാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കാരുണ്യംകൊണ്ടു കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള കുളക്കടെ സ്പെഷ്യൽ സ്കൂൾ സ്ത്രീകളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു പറ്റിയ ഒരു സങ്കേതമാണ്. ഈ സ്കൂൾ ഒരു ഹൈസ്കൂൾ ആക്കി കിട്ടിയാൽ അതു് സമുദായത്തിനു വലിയ ഒരു അനുഗ്രഹമായിരിക്കും. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദയാദൃഷ്ടി ഇതിൽ പതിയണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടുള്ള സമുദായത്തിൻെറ ഭക്തിയും വിശ്വാസവും രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ എനിക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. സമുദായത്തിൻെറ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ ഭക്തിയെ യഥാവസരം തിരുമനസ്സുണർത്തിക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

MR. M. K. MACKAR PILLAI (*Kunnalnad cum Parur*): സർ, ഇതു എൻെറ നാലാമത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു പ്രസംഗമാണ്. ഇത്തവണ ധാരാളം പ്രസംഗിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതിനുള്ള കാരണവും പറയാം സാധാരണ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഈ അസംബ്ളിയുടെ അവസാനത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു യോഗമാണ് ഇതു. ധാരാളം പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്നവർക്കു അടുത്ത ഏലക്ഷനിൽ അധികം വോട്ടുകിട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇത്തവണ ഞാൻ അധികം പ്രസംഗിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ അസംബ്ളിയുടെ കാലാവധി ഒരുകൊല്ലത്തേക്കുകൂടി നീട്ടിയതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഇന്ന് അധികം പ്രസംഗിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

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[Mr. M. K. Mackar Pillai,]

ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ ഒന്ന് അഭിനന്ദിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ വളരെ കാലമായി ആഗ്രഹിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ മാത്രമേ അതിനുള്ള എനിക്കു സന്ദർഭം കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളൂ. പലവക കുരങ്ങളുടെ ഇവിടെ പിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ ഏറ്റവും നിർദ്ദോഷമായ കരം ഇൻകം ടാക്സ് ആണ്. കൃഷി തീരെ നശിച്ചുപോയാലും കൃഷിക്കാരൻ ഭൂനികുതി കൊടുക്കണം. എന്നാൽ നല്ല ആദായം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മാത്രം ആദായനികുതി കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇതു നിർദ്ദോഷമായ കരമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതു്. ആദായനികുതി ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിലെ റേറുപോലെ ഇവിടെയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതായി ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ സന്തോഷിക്കുകയും അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അയ്യായിരം രൂപയിൽ അധികമുള്ള വരവിനു മാത്രം ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിലെ റേറു വച്ചാൽ പോരാ. ൨,൦൦൦ രൂപയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉള്ള ആദായങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യൻ റേറു തന്നെ വയ്ക്കണം.

ഇവിടത്തെ കച്ചവടക്കാരിൽ ചിലർ ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിലും കൊച്ചിയിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ആദായനികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിന് കച്ചവടക്കാർക്ക് ഒരു റിലീഫ് കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കൊച്ചിയിൽ നിന്നും റിലീഫ് കിട്ടണം എന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെൻറും തമ്മിലുള്ള അറേഞ്ചുമെൻറുപോലെ ചെയ്യാൻ സമ്മതമാണെന്ന് കൊച്ചിഗവണ്മെൻറു പറഞ്ഞു. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടത്തെ ഇൻകം ടാക്സ് അധികാരികളോടു് ചോദിച്ചു. അദ്ദേഹം ഉടനേതന്നെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിത്തരാം എന്നൊക്കെ വളരെ കായ്മായി പറഞ്ഞു എങ്കിലും ഒന്നുതന്നെ നടത്തിത്തന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഒന്നു് എതിചോദിച്ചു കളയാം എന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് ഞാൻ ആദായനികുതി കമ്മീഷണർക്ക് ഒരെഴുത്തെഴുതി. അതിന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മറുപടി,

"I have the honour to inform you that nothing could be done in the matter at present and that the question whether relief could be given in such cases will also be taken up when changes in the Income tax Act are considered" എന്നാണ്. ഡബിൾ ടാക്സ് കൊടുക്കുന്നവർക്കു മാത്രം റിലീഫ് കിട്ടണം എന്നാണ് കൊച്ചിയിലും ഇവിടെയും കരംകൊടുക്കുന്ന കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ അപേക്ഷ. അതിനാണ് ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു സമാധാനം കിട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇനി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മകളിലുള്ള അ

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ധികാരികളോട് സങ്കടം പറഞ്ഞു നോക്കാം എന്നുവിചാരിച്ച് ഒരു ലട്ടർ എഴുതി അയച്ചു. അതിനുള്ള മറുപടി ഇതിനേക്കാൾ രസകരമാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്ക് എഴുതയയ്ക്കുന്നത് അഭിമാനത്തിന് അത്ര യോജിച്ചതല്ലായിരിക്കാം. മറുപടി ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്:

"Endorsement on petition dated 12-3-1940 from Mr. M. K. Mackar Pillay, Alwaye, praying for necessary arrangements being made between Cochin and Travancore for relief from double income-tax.

The petitioner is informed that his request cannot be sanctioned under the present circumstances".

ഇതിനുകാരണം എന്താണെന്ന് ഒന്നും ഇതിൽ പറയുന്നില്ല. ഇതിൽ ഒപ്പിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതുതന്നെ ഒരു "ഫാർ" ആണ്. അതാരാണെന്ന നോക്കിയതിൽ ഒരു വിധത്തിലും അറിയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. പിന്നീട് ഇതിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നത് "പ്രേയർ" എന്നാണ്. പ്രേയർ എന്നാൽ പ്രാർത്ഥന എന്നാണ് അർത്ഥം. ഞങ്ങൾ ദൈവത്തോടു മാത്രമേ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാറുള്ളൂ. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥാനംകൂടി വേണമെന്നായിരിക്കാം. അതിരുന്നുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടത്തിന് പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതായിരുന്നു. ആയിരംരൂപ ആദായനികുതി ഇവിടെ കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ തുക തന്നെ ആദായനികുതി കൊച്ചിയിലും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നു ഇതിൽ ഒ ൦ ൦ രൂപ റിലീഫായി ഇവിടെനിന്നും കിട്ടിയാൽ കൊച്ചിയിൽനിന്നും അതുപോലെ കിട്ടും. ഇതു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സ്റ്റേറ്റിലേക്ക് നഷ്ടമല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷയേയാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റു നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. കച്ചവടക്കാക്ക് സങ്കടംകൂടാത്തവിധത്തിൽ ഇതിലേക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു നിവൃത്തിമാർഗ്ഗം ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരണം.

റവന്യൂ, ആദായനികുതി, ഇവ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റായിരിക്കുന്നതു കാര്യക്ഷമതക്ക് പറ്റിയ തന്നല്ല. മറ്റെല്ലാ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ആദായനികുതി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു പ്രത്യേകം ആയ ഒരു വകുപ്പാണ്. അതുപോലെ ഇവിടെയും അതിനെ പ്രത്യേകം തിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. വരവിനെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞ ചിലവുള്ള ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു ആണ് ഇതു്. ഇതിൽ സമർത്ഥരും മനസ്സാക്ഷിയുള്ളവരും ന്യായബോധമുള്ളവരും ആയ ആളുകളെ വേണം നിയമിക്കാൻ. ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുത്താലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഇൻവെസ്റ്റിഗേഷൻ ഡ്യൂട്ടിയിലെ റേറ്റു വയ്ക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപയുള്ള അതിലും കൂടുതലായ തുകതന്നെ ആദായനികുതി ആയി നമുക്കു ലഭിക്കും. എന്നാൽ റേറ്റുകൂട്ടി വയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ റിലീഫ് കൊടുത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആദായനികുതി ഇരട്ടിപ്പായി കൊടുക്കുന്നവർക്കു വലിയ സങ്കടമുണ്ടാകും. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും കണക്കുകൂട്ടിവച്ച് ഗവണ്മെ

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[Mr. M. K. Mackar Pillai]

ൻറിനെ പററിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കായ്ക്ഷമതയുടെ കുറവുകൊണ്ടു അതു കണ്ടു പിടിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഡബിൾ ടാക്സ കൊടുക്കുന്നവക്ക് റിലീഫ് കൊടുത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ മര്യാദക്കാരായ ആളുകൾ എല്ലാം കുറഞ്ഞിപ്പോകും. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ സംരക്ഷണകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ആദായം കിട്ടുന്നതു്. ആദായം കിട്ടുന്നതിനനുസരിച്ചു നികുതികൊടുക്കാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ആദായനികുതി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പ്രത്യേകമായി തരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വളരെ ലാഭമുണ്ടാകും.

ഡിസ്ട്രസു റിലീഫിലേക്കു ഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപാ അടുത്ത കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ നീക്കിവച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. യുദ്ധം കൊണ്ടുള്ള ദുരിതം ആലപ്പുഴ, ചേർത്തല ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രമല്ല, സംസ്ഥാനം ഒട്ടാകെ ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കുരുമുളകു് തുടങ്ങിയ സാമാനങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു. വടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാരായ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് റോഡുകളും പാലങ്ങളും വളരെ കുറവാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ റോഡുകളും പാലങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ പണം ചിലവാക്കിയാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ജോലി ഉണ്ടാവുകയും ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം വർദ്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും.

MR. M. G. KESAVA PILLAI (*Trivandrum Town*): A surplus budget is not necessarily a matter for congratulation nor a deficit budget a matter for alarm. The real thing that counts is the financial position, the sondness or otherwise of the financial position, of the State. One has to see whether unnecessary taxation is resorted to for enhancing the revenue and whether there is any stinting in regard to the provisions to meet the actual requirements of the State. Judged from these views, the budget that is presented now is one which has to be welcomed, is my view. The Financial Secretary and the Government have to be congratulated on the surplus budget. We are passing through a time of great distress all around. A great war is raging in Europe and we are also affected directly by the war. In such a contingency, to present a surplus budget without provision for any additional taxation which would affect the people at large is a matter to be congratulated upon.

The provision for additional taxation aims only at getting more from those who can afford to pay.

Thanks to the industrial policy of Government, additional revenue could be expected from other sources. So with a reserve fund of Rs. 10 lakhs for war purposes and also another reserve fund to the tune of 5 lakhs for the relief of distress due to unemployment, we are now presented with a budget which is characterised as a surplus budget. Some criticisms were levelled against certain departments for example, the

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Transport Department. It has been said that the first yield from the Department is against all expectations as there was a loss. In the current year again against an expectation of two lakhs there is only a profit of Rs. 40,000. Of course all expectations are not to be realised. But we have also to take into consideration all the factors. Due to war conditions the price of oil, spare parts and necessary accessories has gone up. The price of petrol has increased at the rate of 4 or 5 annas per gallon. Though when the scheme was started, diesel oil buses were used, with the extension of service to North Travancore, the Central Travancore and other places, petrol buses were also purchased and there are now more petrol buses than diesel oil buses. So in this abnormal state of affairs if there is a reduction in the expected profit from the Department, that is not a matter for severe criticism. After all, the Department is only 2 to 3 years old. That it caters to the need of the people is seen from the fact that there have been innumerable interpellations on the floor of this House whether new lines could not be opened in places where at present there are no transport buses running. Now there is service between Trivandrum and Nagercoil, Trivandrum-Nedumangad, Trivandrum and Quilon and Trivandrum and Kottayam. Suppose the Government did not start these services. What would have been the fate of the Travancore public? I can confidently say that if these lines have been monopolised by private companies, surely they would have extorted twice or thrice the fare that the transport department now levies. But we are now told that the Department is intending to increase the fare by only one cash per mile.

Now I come to another point, that is, about the enhancement of the income tax not in all cases but only on incomes of more than Rs. 5,000. In my opinion the income tax is a very justifiable form of taxation. The tax is levied only if there is an income. But in the case of land tax even if there is no income from the land we have to pay land tax.

Another new source for revenue is the charges which certain people will have to pay for medical aid. That is, persons who get Rs. 50 or more monthly will have to pay fees for medical aid.

Then speaking about reproductive Schemes, the Ceramic Factory, the Transport Department, the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme and the expected Aluminium Factory at Alwaye and the cement factory are all schemes which are likely to be very profitable.

As far as Excise Revenue is concerned it is said that during the current year the revenue has decreased. The reason for this may be due to the fall in consumption of tobacco, probably due to the enhancement of duty on Jaffna tobacco. But for the next year we can expect a very good revenue from that source.

Some may think that the provision of Rs. 60,000 for rural reconstruction is too small. But it should be noted that a reserve fund of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided for the relief of distress. Sir, the timely action taken by Government in the matter of controlling the prices of food stuffs have kept the price at normal level. At the time of the last

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war the price of food stuffs went up suddenly and consequently the people were put to much hardship. This time the farsightedness and sagacity of Government have saved us from such a situation. With these words I hasten to congratulate the Financial Secretary for presenting a well balanced budget.

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU (*Nominated*): സർ, ധനകാര്യദർശി കാലോചിതമായി ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ ബഡ്ജറിനെ ഞാൻ സസന്തോഷം സ്വാഗതംചെയ്യുന്നു. വേണ്ടതു്, വേണ്ടിടത്തു വേണ്ടതുപോലെ ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്താണീബഡ്ജറു ധനകാര്യദർശി തയാറാക്കിയതു എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഏവർക്കും കാണാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളനുസരിച്ചു് ഒരു ഗണ്യമായ സംഖ്യ മിച്ചംവരത്തക്കവണ്ണം തയാറുചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സാമർത്ഥ്യം യുക്തിയുക്തവും സമുചിതവും നിർദ്ദോഷവും ആണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ എനിക്കു അത്യന്തമായ സന്തോഷമുണ്ടു്.

സർ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ വ്യവസായപുരോഗമനാർത്ഥം ഗവണ്മെൻറു അംഗീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നവീനപദ്ധതികൾ കഴിയുന്നത്ര പൂർവ്വാധികം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറു അംഗീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയം, തെഴിലില്ലാതെ അലയുന്ന പട്ടിണിപാവങ്ങളോടു് കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കരുണ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ അവശലക്ഷങ്ങളോടു കാണിക്കുന്ന വത്സല മനോഭാവം, പാശ്ചാത്യസമരസഹായസന്നദ്ധത ഇവകളോരോന്നും അഭിനന്ദനീയങ്ങളും ആദരണീയങ്ങളും ആണു്.

സർ, ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ എനിക്കു ഒരു സംഗതി വിനയപൂർവ്വം അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അധീശഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പരിപൂർണ്ണമായ വിജയത്തെ ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കി ഇവിടെനിന്നും യുദ്ധസഹായത്തിനുംമറുമായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ നീക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തുക പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപയാണല്ലോ. ഈ സംഖ്യയിൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും അംശം ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് വ്യവസായപരമായും കാർഷികപരമായും ഉല്പാദിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും സാധനസാമഗ്രികൾ യുദ്ധകാര്യനിർവ്വഹണത്തിനു ഉപകരിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സാധനസാമഗ്രികൾ ഇവിടെനിന്നു അയച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്യുവാൻ കഴിയുമെങ്കിൽ അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതാണെങ്കിൽ ആ വിധം വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യുന്നതു ഇവിടത്തെ കർഷകർക്കും കൃഷിക്കാർക്കും പ്രസ്തുതവിഷയത്തിൽ നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഭീമമായ സ്തംഭനത്തിനു ഒരു പരിഹാരവും ക്രമാതീതമായ സാമ്പത്തികവൈഷമ്യം അനുഭവിച്ചുപോരുന്ന കർഷകർക്കും തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കും അതൊരനുഗ്രഹവും കൂടിആയിരിക്കും.

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അടുത്തതായി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു അവശസമുദായ അംഗങ്ങളുടെ പുരോഗമനത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. അവശസമുദായസമുദ്ധരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കായി മാറ്റിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ ര ഫ വ. ൈ വ രൂപയാണു. ഏകദേശം ൻ്അര ലക്ഷത്തോളം വരുന്ന ഈ അവശസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ പുരോഗമനത്തിനു ഈ തുക എത്ര കണ്ടു മതിയാകുമെന്നു ദയവായി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് കരുണാപൂർവ്വം പുനരാലോചന ചെയ്തു കുറഞ്ഞപക്ഷം ഒരുലക്ഷം രൂപയെങ്കിലും അവശസമുദായസംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി മാറ്റിവയ്ക്കുവാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

മറ്റൊരു സംഗതി മറ്റുഹിന്ദുക്കൾ എന്ന വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. ഒറ്റൽപരം ന്യൂനപക്ഷഹിന്ദുസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു സങ്കലനസംജ്ഞയാണ് "മറ്റു ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ" എന്ന വകുപ്പ്. ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ എണ്ണംകൊണ്ടു കുറവെങ്കിലും ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലും മറ്റെല്ലാകാര്യങ്ങളിലും ഏറ്റവും ഉയർന്നപടിയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ന്യൂനപക്ഷക്കാരും ഈ വക എല്ലാ കാര്യങ്ങളിലും കേവലം താണപടിയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന പരമസങ്കടമനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ന്യൂനപക്ഷക്കാരും ഉൾപ്പെട്ടു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അനേകസമുദായങ്ങളെ ഒന്നിച്ചുചേർത്താണ് മറ്റു ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ എന്ന വകുപ്പ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസുകമ്മീഷണർ മുൻവച്ചുകൊണ്ടു നിയമനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുമ്പോൾ മറ്റുഹിന്ദുക്കളിൽ മുൻപറഞ്ഞ ഉയന്നതരം പരീക്ഷകൾ പാസ്സാകുവാൻ സൌകര്യം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ന്യൂനപക്ഷങ്ങൾക്കുമാത്രമെ സർവ്വീസിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുവാൻ കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാകുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇതു അവശസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു സങ്കടകരമായ ഒരു കാര്യമായിതീർന്നിരിക്കയാണ്. മറ്റുഹിന്ദുക്കളിൽ ഏതെല്ലാം സമുദായക്കാർ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടുമെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊരറിവുമില്ലാതെയാണു ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഒരേ തൊഴിലിലും ആചാരത്തിലും ഒരേജീവിതസമ്പ്രദായത്തിലും ജീവിക്കുന്നവരും ഒരു സമുദായമായി കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നവരും കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടേണ്ടവരും എന്നാൽ ദേശഭേദംകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം പേരുകളിൽ അറിയപ്പെടുന്നവരും ആയ ഒട്ടനവധി ന്യൂനപക്ഷഹിന്ദുസമുദായങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെയുണ്ട്. അടുത്ത സെൻസസ്സറിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ എങ്കിലും ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള എല്ലാ സമുദായങ്ങളേയും ഒരു പേരിലാക്കി ഏകസമുദായമാക്കി ഐകരൂപ്യം വരുത്തുവാൻ വേണ്ട ശ്രമം പതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടും സെൻസസ്സ് കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകളോടും ഞാൻ അപേ

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[Mr. Kaviyoor K. K. Kochkunju]

ക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ന്യൂനപക്ഷങ്ങളായ ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ അവരുടെ ജാതിയും മതവും ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച് ഇതരമതാവലംബികളായി പോകുന്നതിനും ഇപ്പോഴും അവർ ന്യൂനപക്ഷങ്ങളായിത്തന്നെയിരുന്നു ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ദുഃഖിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകുന്നത്. ലക്ഷത്തിൽക്കൂടുതലുള്ള അവശസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു പിന്നോക്കസമുദായഉദ്ധരണ അഡ്വൈസറിബോർഡ്മുഖാന്തിരം അവരുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളും അവശതകളും ബഃ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ച് പ്രസ്തുത അവശതകൾ ഇവിടത്തെ മറ്റു പ്രബലസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നേടുന്നതിന് അനുയോജ്യമായ വ്യവസ്ഥകളും ഉണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള യാതൊരു സൌകര്യങ്ങളും മറുഹിന്ദുക്കളിൽപെട്ട ന്യൂനപക്ഷസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കില്ല. ഇവരിൽ എത്രപേർക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗമുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ള വിവരംപോലും ചുമതലയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക് ഇതുവരെ അറിയുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നു അവരോടു ചോദിച്ച ചില ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ഉത്തരങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിയും. ഈ വക അവശതകളും എത്രയുംവേഗത്തിൽ പരിഹരിച്ച് ഇവരെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നകാര്യത്തിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ സവിശേഷമായ കരുണയെ ഞാൻ സാദരം ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ വളരെ താഴ്ന്ന ഒരുപടിയാണ് വണ്ണവസമുദായത്തിനുള്ളത്. ഈ സമുദായത്തിനു മറുഅവശസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫീസു സൌജന്യം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ ഈ പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യത്ത് ഒരുക്രൂരം മനുഷ്യമൃഗങ്ങളെക്കൂടിക്കാണുവാൻ ഇടയാകുമെന്നുമാത്രമെ എനിക്കു പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളൂ.

അലക്കുതൊഴിലിനു അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതങ്ങളായ ഡൈവാഷിംഗ്, ബ്ലീച്ചിംഗ് എന്നിവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പഠനങ്ങൾ സർവ്വകലാശാലയിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. അതിലേക്കു വണ്ണവസമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ഏതാനും വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെക്കൂടി എടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവരുടെ തൊഴിൽപരമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു ഏറ്റവും സഹായകരമായിരിക്കും വണ്ണവസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും അനവധി അപേക്ഷകന്മാർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും ഒരുത്തനെപ്പോലും അതിൽ ഇതുവരെ പ്രവേശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. വർണ്ണവസമുദായത്തിൻെറ അവാന്തരവിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ചിലതിനെ പിന്നോക്കസമുദായപട്ടികയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുകയും പലതിനേയും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താതെ വിട്ടുകളയുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു സങ്കടകരമാണ്. ഭ്രമത്തുകൊണ്ടോ മറു സ്വാർത്ഥത്തികനിലകൊണ്ടോ യാതൊരു അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുമില്ലാതെ കേവലം

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അവശതയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന ഒരു സമുദായമാകുന്ന വണ്ണവസമുദായം. ഈ സമുദായത്തെക്കൂടി പിന്നോക്കസമുദായ പട്ടികയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി പിന്നോക്കസമുദായങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും കരുണാപൂർവം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാ സഹായങ്ങളുംചെയ്തു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ തല്ക്കാലം എൻെറ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): സർ, ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിമാർ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിമാരായിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളംകാലം അവർ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ബഡ്ജറും അഭിനന്ദനാർഹംതന്നെയായിരിക്കും. എൻെറ ബഹുമാന്യന്മാരായ പല സ്നേഹിതന്മാരും ഇതിനുമുൻപു് ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി അതിൻെറ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ക്ഷുണ്ണമായി വിമർശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ഇവിടെ സ്ഥിതിവിവരക്കണക്കുകൾ ഫാജരാക്കിയൊ, കണക്കുകൾ എടുത്തുദ്ധരിച്ചൊ ഒരു വിമർശനം നടത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അശേഷം വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ സത്വരമായ ശ്രദ്ധക്കു വിഷയീഭവിക്കേണ്ട ചില സംഗതികളെമാത്രം ഇവിടെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുള്ളു.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have decided to allow the official members about fifty minutes for their reply. That makes it about fifty minutes available for honourable members to speak and I think the honourable members will agree with me when I say that the best thing is to take about seven or eight minutes each so that a greater number of honourable members may be enabled to speak. Honourable members will help me to adopt this course.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU : സർ, സാധാരണ ബഡ്ജറു് വിമർശനം നടത്തുന്നതുപോലെ തന്നെ എൻെറ പ്രസംഗവും ആരംഭിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. വിശദവും സുഗ്രാഹ്യവും നമ്മുടെ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയെ സവിശേഷം വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു് ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി ഫാജരാക്കിയതിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഹൃദയപൂർവം അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. പൊതുജനോപകാരപ്രദങ്ങളും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ പുരോഗതിക്കു ഉപയുക്തങ്ങളും നമ്മുടെ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയെ പരിപുഷ്ടമാക്കുന്നതിനു പറ്റുംപടിയുള്ളതുമായ പല പദ്ധതികളും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുകയും വരുത്താൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെയും അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പള്ളിവാസൽ ഹൈഡ്രോ ഇലക്ട്രിക് സ്കീം,

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[Mr. Padiyara Joseph Kunju]

ആലപ്പുഴ വാട്ടർവർക്സ്, സെറാമിക് ഫാക്ടറി, റബർ ഫാക്ടറി, സ്റ്റോറ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് എന്നീ പദ്ധതികൾ സപ്നലോകത്തിലല്ലാ, ഊഹലോകത്തിലുമല്ലാ, പ്രവൃത്തിപദ്ധതിയിൽത്തന്നെ കാലൂന്നിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ, ബീടിപ്പുകയില കൃഷി, അലുമിനിയംഫാക്ടറി മുതലായ പദ്ധതികൾ ഉടനെതന്നെ—വിനാവിളംബം—ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുമെന്നു കാണുന്നതും ആശ്വാസ്യകരം തന്നെ. വളരെ കൂടുതൽ ആദായം എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവരിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ആദായനികുതി ഈടാക്കുവാൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതും സ്പൃഹണീയവും ആദരണീയവുമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ആദായനികുതി കൂടുതലായി ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനെ പ്രധാനമായി പ്രതിഷേധിക്കേണ്ടതു വ്യവസായവാണിജ്യപ്രവർത്തകരാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഒരു വാണിജ്യവ്യവസായപ്രവർത്തകനും ആലപ്പുഴ ചെയിംബർ ആഫ് കാമെഴ്സിന്റെയും കയർ മാറ്റ്സ് ആൻഡ് മാറ്റിംഗ്സ് അസോസിയേഷന്റെയും വൈസ്പ്രസിഡൻറായ മി: ജനാർദ്ദനൻപിള്ള പോലും ഇതിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അതിൽനിന്നും ഇതിന്റെ ആവശ്യകത പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു്.

ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി ഇവിടെ വന്നതിനുശേഷം പൊതുജനോപകാരപ്രദങ്ങളും രാജ്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു അത്യന്തം ഉപയുക്തങ്ങളുമായ അനവധി സംരംഭങ്ങൾ സമാരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സന്തോഷസമേതം ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഒരു ന്യൂനത ഇവിടെ സർവത്ര കാണപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. ഭരണസാരഥ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന ആളിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എത്രതന്നെ പരിശുദ്ധമായിരുന്നാലും ശരി, അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിനു മുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള (കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കേവലം അനാസ്ഥരും അപ്രാപ്തരുമായിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഭരണസാരഥ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന ആളിന്റെ ഒരു ഉദ്ദേശവും സാധിതപ്രായമായിത്തീരുകയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, ഭരണസാരഥിയുടെ സദ്യശസ്സിനുപോലും അതു ഹാനികരമായിത്തീരുന്നതുമാണ്. നിർഭാഗ്യവശാൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ നില ഇതാണെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിവന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു വളരെ വ്യസനമുണ്ടു്. ഉദാഹരണമായി ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ടു വകുപ്പിനെത്തന്നെ എടുക്കാം. ഗവണ്മെൻറു എത്രനല്ല പരിശുദ്ധമായ ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിയാണു് ഈ പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയതു്. എന്റെ ബഹുമാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മി: കൈനിക്കര പത്മനാഭപിള്ള ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ വരവുചെലവു കണക്കുകളെപ്പറ്റി വിമർശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ആ

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ഭാഗത്തേക്കു ഞാൻ കടക്കുന്നില്ല. ഒരു ചോദ്യം ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. വിദേശികളായ ആറാംതരക്കാരെക്കാൾ മോശക്കാരാണോ ഇവിടത്തെ ഒന്നാംതരക്കാർ?. സ്റ്റേറു ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് പദ്ധതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വലിയ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളും ആശങ്കകളും ജനതാമദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അന്നും ഈ പദ്ധതിയെ ഹൃദയപൂർവം അനുകൂലിച്ചവരിൽ ഒരാളാണു ഞാൻ. അതിൻെറ സാദ്ധ്യതയെപ്പറ്റി ഇപ്പോഴും ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുകയുംചെയ്യുന്നു. പക്ഷേ അതിൻെറ മേധാവിയെ ഒന്നു മാറ്റണം. എങ്കിലേ ആ പദ്ധതികൊണ്ടുള്ള പൂർണ്ണമായ പ്രയോജനം രാജ്യത്തിനു വരികയുള്ളൂ. ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ആദ്യകാലത്തു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങളെല്ലാം അമ്പലപ്പുഴ, നെയ്യാറിൻകര, കൊട്ടാരക്കര എന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിലുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കാണു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അപ്പോൾ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഡ്രൈവറന്മാരുടേയും കണ്ടക്ടറന്മാരുടേയും ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വരുത്തി പരിശോധിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഈ സംഗതി ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണു്. എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇങ്ങനെസംഭവിച്ചതു്? ആദ്യകാലങ്ങളിൽ നിയമനകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേധാവിയെ ഉപദേശിച്ച മാനേജരന്മാരും ഡിവിഷൻ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും അവരുടെ ബന്ധുമിത്രാദികളേയും സ്വദേശികളേയും ഹിതാനുവർത്തികളേയും മാത്രം നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേധാവിയെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചു. അതിൻെറ ഫലമെന്താണു്? എത്രയോ ബസ്സുകൾ മറിഞ്ഞു, ആളുകൾക്കു പരുക്കുകൾ പറ്റുന്നു. ഇതിൻെറ തെളിവിലേക്കായി മറ്റൊന്നും പോകേണ്ടയാവശ്യമില്ല. എൻെറ മുമ്പാകെ ഇരിക്കുന്ന ബഹുമാന്യനായ ലീഗൽ റിമെബ്രൻസർ, അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ ആയുസ്സിൻെറ വലിപ്പംകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഇവിടെ ഇരിക്കുന്നു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ. ഇവിടത്തെ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടായിരിക്കുന്ന മി: പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ളയും ആയുസ്സിൻെറ ബലം കൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോഴും ജീവിക്കുകയാണു്. എന്നേയും അവർ വെറുതെ വിട്ടില്ല. ഞാൻ ഒരു പ്ലെഷർ കാറിൽ പോകുമ്പോൾ ഒരു ബസ്സുവന്നു എൻെറ കാറിനേയും ഇടിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഞാൻ ഒരു വിധത്തിൽ രക്ഷപെട്ടു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

യോഗ്യതായോഗ്യതകളെ നോക്കാതെ ചാർച്ചയും വേഴ്ചയും നോക്കി നിയമനം നടത്തിയതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഇങ്ങനെ അബദ്ധങ്ങൾ സംഭവിച്ചതു്. ഇവർക്കു ഡ്രൈവിംഗ് അറിയാമോ, വേണ്ട ശ്രദ്ധ എടുക്കുന്നവരാണോ, എഴുത്തും വായനയും അറിയാമോ എന്നൊന്നും നോക്കണ്ട. എൻെറ ജേഷ്ഠനാണോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ എൻെറ മച്ചുനൻ ആണോ, എ

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[Mr. Padiyara Joseph Kunju]

ന്റെ പെങ്ങളാണോ എന്നൊക്കെ നോക്കിയാണ നിയമനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നത്. ഈ തരത്തിലാണ് നിയമനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ഇതു വലിയ കുഴപ്പത്തിൽ ചെന്നവസാനിക്കും.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The honourable member's narrations and discussions are very interesting. I must admit that. But the honourable member cannot exceed his time limit. He has already gained two minutes; he has three minutes more. He must be equally interesting but somewhat shorter.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: എനിക്കു കുറച്ചുകൂടി സംസാരിക്കുവാനുണ്ട്.

സർ, ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു ക്ഷമിക്കണം. ഇദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കീഴിലുള്ള ചില സിൽബന്തികൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ കബളിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിന്റെയാണ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു മനസിലായതെന്ന് എന്നോട് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞു. അദ്ദേഹത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു കാര്യം പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. പണ്ട് പ്രഹ്ളാദന്റെ അച്ഛൻ ഹിരണ്യകശിപു ഒരു വരം വാങ്ങിച്ചു. അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പകൽകൊണ്ടുകൂടാ, രാത്രിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുകൂടാ, മുറിക്കകത്തുവച്ചോ പുറത്തുവച്ചോ കൊണ്ടുകൂടാ, മനുഷ്യർ കൊല്ലരുതു, മൃഗങ്ങൾ കൊല്ലരുതു എന്നായിരുന്നു വരം. ഏകദേശം ഇതുപോലെയാണ നമ്മുടെ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ഡ്രൈവറുടെ ഏർപ്പാടുകളും. അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ആഫീസിൽവച്ചു കണ്ടുകൂടാ, വീട്ടിൽവച്ചു കണ്ടുകൂടാ, റോഡിൽവച്ചോ വഴിയിൽവച്ചോ കണ്ടുകൂടാ: ഇതൊക്കെയാണ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ചട്ടം. സങ്കടക്കാരായ ആളുകൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെക്കാണാൻ ആഫീസിൽ ചെല്ലും, ശിപായിമാർ അവരെ ഓടിക്കും. വീട്ടിൽ ചെന്നാൽ അവിടെ നിന്നും ഓടിക്കും. എന്റെ നിയോജമണ്ഡലത്തിലുള്ള ചില സങ്കടക്കാർ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ കാണാൻ തരപ്പടാഞ്ഞിട്ട് എന്റെ അടുക്കൽ വരികയുണ്ടായി. ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ചെന്നുകണ്ടു. അവരെ കാണാൻ അനുവദിക്കാഞ്ഞതു എന്താണെന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ചോദിച്ചു. അദ്ദേഹം എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞതു ഇങ്ങനെയാണ്. "ആഫീസ്സിൽ ചെന്നാൽ ധാരാളം ജോലിയുണ്ട്. ആളുകളെ കണ്ടു സംസാരിക്കുവാനുള്ള സമയമില്ല. വീട്ടിൽചെന്നാലൊ ? അവിടെ മദാമ്മയുണ്ട്. അവർക്ക് ഇതൊന്നും രസിക്കുകയില്ല." ആഫീസിൽ ജോലികൊണ്ടുള്ള കുഴപ്പം, വീട്ടിൽ മദാമ്മയുടെ കുഴപ്പം, പാവപ്പെട്ട സങ്കടക്കാർ പിന്നെ എങ്ങോട്ടാണ് പോകേണ്ടതു?

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ഭക്തിവിലാസത്തു ചെന്ന് സങ്കടം പറയാമെന്നവച്ചാൽ മിവാൻജിയെ കാണുന്നതിനും പ്രയാസം. ഇങ്ങനെ ആളുകൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നത് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽമാത്രമല്ല. മറ്റുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിലും ഇമ്മാതിരി അഴിമതികൾ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഉടൻ പിരിച്ചുവിട്ട് ഇവിടത്തെ കാലദേശാവസ്ഥകൾ അറിയാവുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം എത്ര മഹനീയമായിരുന്നാലും അതു് സഫലമായി വരികയില്ല.

ഇവിടത്തെമെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ കഥയും ഇതുപോലെതന്നെയാണു്. അതിൽ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥമേധാവി ഉണ്ടു്. ഒരു പുതുമ എന്നപോലെ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ആദ്യമായി ഒരു സ്ത്രീയെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ മേലധ്യക്ഷയായി നിയമിച്ചു. അതിൽ എനിക്കു് അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുണ്ടു്. ഭാഗ്യവശാലോ നിർഭാഗ്യവശാലോ അവരുമായി ചിലബന്ധങ്ങളുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനും ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു മേധാവിയുടെ ഭരണം വെറും വഷളും ബീഭത്സവുമായിരിക്കുന്നു. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ഡിമാൻറു വരുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി സവിസ്തരം പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം.

PRESIDENT : That is the best plan. Honourable member must realise that the head of the Medical Department is not here to answer him. She is invisible to the honourable member and outside the House; and therefore the honourable member cannot go on. The point is it would be much better if he concentrates on the Medical Budget.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU : വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെപ്പറ്റി മി: ശിവരാമപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞ ഓരോ പ്രസ്താവനയോടും ഞാൻ ഹൃദയപൂർവം യോജിക്കുന്നു.

അടുത്തതായി എനിക്കു എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. വളരെ പ്രാപ്തനും ജനസമ്മതനും പരമയോഗ്യനുമായ ഒരാളാണു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ. എന്നാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കീഴിലുള്ളവർ വെറും അപ്രാപ്തന്മാരാണു്. ഇതുവരെയുള്ള സ്കൂൾ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറസ്സുമാരെ നോക്കിയാൽ അതായതു റോസ്സ് മേയർ, മിസ്സ് ക്യാറപിറു്, മിസസ്സ് ദേവശിഖാമണി ഇവക്കു മലയാളം അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. മലയാളം സ്കൂളുകളിൽ പരിശോധനനടത്തേണ്ട ഡിവിഷൻ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടന്മാക്കും മലയാളം അറിയാൻ പാടില്ല. അവർ സാധാരണ തമിഴിലാണു് സംസാരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയായിരുന്നകാലത്തു ഒരു സംഭവമുണ്ടായി. അന്നു് ഒരു യൂറോപ്യൻ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു മലയാളം അറിയാമെന്നു മറ്റുള്ളവരെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി സ്കൂൾ പരിശോധനയുടെ

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[Mr. Padaiyara Joseph Kunju]

വന്നപ്പോൾ ഒരു ക്ലാസ്സിൽ കയറി "ഏർ, ഭോർ, ചോർ ഗ്രസംസ്, കംസ് ഇതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം പറ" എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. ഇതുകേട്ട് കുട്ടി കൾ ആകപ്പാടെ അമ്പരന്നുപോയി. ഇത് വാദ്ധ്യാരോട് ചോദിച്ചു. "സായിപ്പേ ഇതു പഠിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടില്ല" എന്ന് വാദ്ധ്യാർ പറഞ്ഞു. ഇത് ഈ പുസ്തകത്തിലുണ്ടെന്നു സായിപ്പ് പറഞ്ഞ് പാഠ്യപുസ്തകത്തിന്റെ ഒരു വശം തിരിച്ചു കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു. "അരേ ദുരാചാര നിശംസ കംസ" എന്നുള്ളതിന്റെ അർത്ഥമാണ് സായിപ്പ് ചോദിച്ചതെന്നു അപ്പോഴാണ് എല്ലാവരും മനസ്സിലാക്കിയത്. ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള അളു കളെ മലയാളം പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളും പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിനു നിയമിച്ചാൽ മലയാള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന് എത്രത്തോളം അഭിവൃദ്ധി ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്ന് എല്ലാവർക്കും മനസിലാക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ തരത്തിലുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാ സരീതി കൊണ്ടാണ് അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യർക്കു തന്നെയും നാലു വാചകം തിക ച്ചും മലയാളത്തിൽ ശരിയായി പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെയിരിക്കുന്നത്.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): Sir, I am diffident to rise to offer my few observations on the budget so soon after my friend Mr. Joseph Kunju has entertained the house for the last few minutes with his observations of a personal character regarding the Director of the Transport Department and the Surgeon General. I am rather afraid I am very much handicapped by the boisterous feelings aroused by Mr. Joseph Kunju. I do not know where to begin. I shall gather the end of the discussions from where it was left some time back.

I thought Sir, the discussion was going on rather merrily allowing the Financial Secretary to enjoy himself as others went on congratulating him, till my friend the honourable member Mr. Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai stood up and made his remarks on the financial statement. I was surprised to find from the leader of a party such a sweeping condemnation of the Financial Secretary's performance, allowing him no quarter to escape. The honourable member was contending that the statement had not one non-misleading statement about his financial position and said that misleading statements were so numerous as to compel him to conclude that they were not unintentional. It had the effect of an awful jolting. Perhaps it may be either due to so many ruts in the Financial Secretary's speech or to something else. I cannot agree with him in regard to many of his observations in regard to the budget estimates for the coming year. The wonder of it is that in the honourable member's opinion, there is not even a single point to be appreciated. Sir, from beginning to end it was a tirade against the budget presented. Let me examine one or two of his observations and try to dispel some of his misstatements in which he was obviously labouring.

Sir, he was referring to the Financial statement of the Transport Department. At the outset I may express that the Transport Department is a very good department of great utility to the public and it is

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going to bring a lot of revenue to Government. While referring to the Transport Department I interrupted the honourable member Mr. Padmanabha Pillai with a question whether the member was aware of the estimated depreciation and the revised depreciation amount for the current year in regard to this department. I may refer to the House the following financial statement given in page 10 of the Preliminary Budget :—

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

Depreciation Fund.

Actual accounts in 1114	...	Rs. 1,70,697
Budget Estimate for 1115	...	Rs. 1,56,000
Revised Budget Estimates for 1115	...	Rs, 1,85,300

Sir, there is this difference of Rs. 30,000 and odd between the revised estimate and the budget estimate for the current year. What is the underlying explanation ? It is to be found that there is an increase in the depreciation fund in the revised estimate over the budget estimate. This is due obviously to the increased investment made in the course of the year. Of course it must not be forgotten that the department took up new lines of service sometime after the year began thereby adding something more to capital expenditure. This additional amount has to be depreciated for. Then, there is the increased depreciation for the different spare parts newly purchased to repair the vehicles already in service. For example, ordinarily speaking, a motor vehicle is expected to run only for about four to five years. Therefore the depreciation on account of investment on a motor bus comes to nearly 20 per cent. a year. With regard to spare parts the depreciation is much more, because the spare parts easily get worn out long before the vehicle as a whole. Depreciations of the vehicle as a whole and of the spare parts in particular are naturally very very different, and if there be an investment of capital for vehicles and for spare parts during the course of the year depreciation accounted for should be necessarily higher than the budget estimate. That is why we find that the revised estimate has increased. Now it is simple enough to know when depreciation increases, net revenue decreases. With regard to other reasons and circumstances that brought about a reduction in revenue for this year I do not want to mention.

PRESIDENT : Are 1914 items also brought in ?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : Yes, Sir, both 1913 and 1914.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : Yes Sir. My friend has not understood what that implies. An old vehicle requires more spare parts perhaps costing more than a new unit. My friend Mr. Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai was preparing the results of the transport service by the department as if no additional buses or spare parts were purchased causing additional investment after the budget estimate was prepared for this year. Another argument of Mr. Padmanabha Pillai was this. The private company which was displaced by the Government Transport scheme, was making a good profit in spite of competition and of having

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[Mr. Sivathanu Pillai]

had to satisfy the corrupt police. Sir here, it is I find a misleading statement made by the honourable member intentionally closing his eyes. The one fundamental reason for the Government to step in and displace the private concern, was that the private concern almost held a monopoly and the Government was justified to take it for themselves. Has the honourable member forgotten it safely in the heat of his attack against the Financial Secretary. Yes, the Transport Department now holds the sole monopoly, But Government schemes are not like those of private persons. In this particular instance the private concern was only paying Rs. 18 or so to a driver and Rs. 10 to the conductor. Frequently the drivers and conductors were paid only daily wages. What does the department do ? Drivers and conductors are paid decently and that as monthly salaries. Compare the investment in the Government garages in Trivandrum and Nagercoil with those huts of mud walls and thatched roofs of the erstwhile private concern. What is the investment on the garages ? Here in Trivandrum we have spent a lakh and odd rupees and some forty or fifty thousand in Nagercoil. So all these figures, all these investments on outlay have brought about a great reduction in the net returns. That is the position with regard to the transport scheme. I would say my honourable friend Mr. Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai was wrong in comparing private agency and Government department. That is why he was not able to understand the question with regard to the greater depreciation account of this department when additional vehicles had to be put during the course of the year. The honourable member might remember that this house allowed a supplementary grant for additional inevstment in vehicles some 3 or 4 months back. Full return could not obviously be earned.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : Explain how you account less returns ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : There are certain lean months in the year. During which the income will be less than at other months.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : For how many months please ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : They say that the latter months are lean months. During the middle of this year spare parts had to be purchased and they are also depreciated for.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : Are they anticipated in the budget ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : I ask Sir, how is it possible ? How the budget could anticipate that a vehicle will be breaking on the way in such and such a time ?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : Whether the increase of the number of vehicles will increase the income or reduce it ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : It increases both the depreciation and the income if the earning period is not lean. It has got to be worked out item by item. The income does not depend upon solely the number of vehicles. It depends upon the load it gets and the period during

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which it gets the load. Every portion of the year it ought to be watched carefully and calculated properly. During Chingom and following 3 or 4 months there will be greater income. During the last three months, they say, there will be less of income, and we have to take it into account and not imagine that the more additional investment is made, the more is the return. That is there cannot be always a proportionate income proportionate to the capital. This kind of agreement advanced by my honourable friend Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is faulty whether intentional or not. His position in regard to the accounts of the transport scheme is wholly incorrect.

Then, Sir, I come to another argument of his to condemn the financial statement of the Financial Secretary. He was questioning the propriety of changing the expenditure under debt-head to that under capital expenditure and contended that it may be correcting accounting as claimed by the Financial Secretary. It is wrong policy or at any rate it is opposed to the policy of the Government hitherto followed. He further contended that it was a sound policy to have expenditure under debt head and not as in the present one and that it was adopted for the last several years and that there was no justification whatsoever for the present Financial Secretary to change it. In the course of that contention he was remarking that it may be correct accounting.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : I did not say so, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : What I gathered from him was that according to the Financial Secretary it may be correct accounting but that it was not consistent with the policy adopted by Government before. That is what I understood. I suppose I am correct. Well then there is so much of frankness in the Financial Secretary's statement and that shows that he did not want to juggle with figures as the honourable member would make it. He was only showing that so much money was drawn from the balance accounts and utilised for capital expenditure which after all is going to be a long standing asset to the country. I am not a believer in transposing figures from one column to another for the purpose of showing that the cash balance is so much. I would rather favour the cash balance being actually drawn upon for the purpose of capital investment and that fact shows as such in the finance statement. I do not understand the meaning of the honourable member saying that though it may be a question of correct accounting, the Financial Secretary must not go against a long standing method or policy. Pray what is the reason for not doing so? The honourable member quotes the authority of Mr. Rengaswami Aiyar, Ex-Financial Secretary in support of his scathing condemnation of the present Financial Secretary for his departure from the old Financial Secretary. Sir after all, the Financial Secretary's statement reveals that at least there is correct accounting. That is how I view this question. Coming as the remark did from from the leader of a Party, it was rather surprising to me because not even a single redeeming feature was he able to find in the Financial Secretary's statement. Not that I agree with it in toto.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : May I know whether throughout his speech he has found one redeeming feature ?

PRESIDENT : The honourable member may come to the conclusion soon. He has only three minutes more.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : The impression that a careful reader of the Financial Secretary's statement obtains is that this State is all engrossed in the industrialisation of the country. As soon as we turn the pages of the statement we are taken to the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme. I find that the total connected load is about 4,000 kilo watts and that the ultimate capacity is 31,000 kilo watts. I was under the impression that our neighbouring State of Cochin will purchase power from us. I understand that they are now paying higher rates than what they may have to pay us if we supplied them electricity. I was definitely given to understand that there was going to be an arrangement between this Government and the Cochin Government in the matter of the consumption of our power by the Cochin State and also that that agreement was reduced to writing and was about to be signed. I do not know what has happened in the meanwhile to prevent the conclusion of that agreement.

PRESIDENT : The Cochin Government has given the contract for supply to a private contractor.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : I understand that the rate paid now by the Cochin State is higher than the rate at which this Government will be prepared to supply.

At this stage I may be permitted to make a digression, because a comparison was made between Cochin and Travancore on the state of affairs obtaining in Cochin and those obtaining in Travancore.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. I was not here when those remarks were made. But I would invite the honourable member not to follow the example of those honourable members who think it is part of their duty to foul their own nest on these occasions. I think we can well confine ourselves to our own State instead of drawing comparison between the integrity of one State and that of another. This may be left to the judgment of the honourable members of the House who will realise that such remarks are a disgrace to this House and to the members making those remarks.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : I was only about to observe that we have nothing to copy from other States while there is something here for other States to copy.

PRESIDENT : If the remarks referred to were made when I was in the Chair I would have called him to order and taken other steps. But at the present moment I do not think that his example need be copied by others. But if honourable members are so lost to a sense of decency as to make those remarks, they must bear the consequences of those remarks.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : I was referring to the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. In this connection, I would like to know what the Government did with those machines that have gone out of use after

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the introduction of the Pallivasal Hydro Electric power, as for instance, in the Chitra Mills and in Quilon I would suggest that Government had better make use of these machines in places which are not within reach of the Pallivasal Scheme and particularly in places where black-outs is the ordinary feature about private licensees.

I want to say a word with regard to the Kundara Factory. In interpellations reference is made to cracks in the chimney of the factory. I hope that it will be able to show a good return in spite of the cracks.

One word more. The President in the course of his remarks invited the House to refer to certain pages of the financial statement which deal with taxation and from the point of view of my constituency they are very important. He said

> "I can confidently direct the attention of the honourable members of the Legislature to those pages of the Financial Secretary's speech in which he has made a comparison and contrast between the taxation here and taxation elsewhere."

Accordingly on a referrence to page 25 of the Financial Secretary's speech I find that taxation per head in Travancore is 13 as., in Madras it is Re. 1-1-0 and in Mysore it is Re. 1-13-10. This rather struck me as an unsual phenomenon that while we in Nanjinad paid Rs. 20 average per acre, the taxation in this State per head was only Re. 0-13-0. Haw does it come about? Does it mean that out of every thirty persons only one person pays land tax and the remaining pays no land tax whatsoever? (*President's Bell.*)

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: (*Karunagapally* cum *Karthikapally*): Sir, it is a matter of profound satisfaction that amidst the ravages of the economic depression, aggravated by the present catastrophic international situation we have attempted to handle a budget with an income soaring up to unattained limits and a balance not negligible. We may rejoice that this has been attained without any further increase in the burden of tax to the ordinary rate payer. Sir, the increase of rates of income tax and super-tax over an income of Rs. 5,000, the levy of an excess profit duty and other methods contemplated to bring a revenue of 7 to 8 lakhs of rupees to the exchecquer are not unwelcome.

The Financial Secretary seems to be under a misconception that taxes here are very lightly borne. Land Revenue forms 15 per cent of our revenue. The incidence of taxation here (0-13-4) compared to that of Mysore or Madras may be the lightest. Taxes are levied and collected according to accepted canons of taxation. Still it may seem a queer paradox that the effect of the taxation weighs more heavily on the rate payer than what its incidence amounts to. The basic principle of the canon of economy in taxation is more often violated than observed. Economic ruination in the shape of penalties and forfeitures, and exposure to vexation from tax collectors are the order of the day. Gazettes are swelling to enormous sizes with the auction notices for the recovery of land tax. The Land Revenue Department issues lakhs and lakhs of demand notices and collects a lakh of rupees

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[Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair.]

as demand notice and process fees. What is all this due to, Sir, if the tax is lightly borne by the people? It is because our tax cannot adjust itself to our present wealth or taxable capacity. Every tax should take out and keep out from the pockets of the people as little as possible over and above what it brings to the exchequer, and the true taxable capacity is the difference between the aggregate income and the aggregate subsistence level. The short time at my disposal, say 8 or 10 minutes, does not allow me to elucidate this point. Still it may be stated confidently that a close study of the figures given by the Economic Depression Committee Report, Dr. Patel's Report, and the Banking Enquiry Committee Report will easily prove this point.

In 1114 only 31% of the payers paid before the due date. The arrears increased from 9 lakhs in 1113 to 11 lakhs in 1114. All this portends a difficult day both for collections and for payments. In these circumstances I would suggest to Government to consider seriously whether all taxes on land except on plantations should not be abolished. The revenue lost thereby can be easily made up by the expected enormous incomes from our capital undertakings.

Before I pass on to the expenditure side I wish to make a reference to another tax—an indirect tax. I mean, the export duty on cocoanuts and cocoanut products. It was levied for revenue purposes when the article was practically our monopoly. At present the incidence has fallen wholly, and very heavily on the producer because it has ceased to be a monopoly and because the demand in the consuming country is very elastic. The presence of this duty has proved a handicap to our producers to secure good prices in the Indian and world markets. The sooner it is abolished the better will be our prospects for competition in open markets.

Now I may turn to the expenditure side. The first thing that strikes one in this connection is the enormous unlimited increase of the administrative expenses and pensions. The Financial Secretary has remarked in his speech that "the permanent necessity for exercising economy weighed with Government that the axe has been ruthlessly applied" ..... and so on. This pretended recognition did not fructify in practical application. Pensions which amounted to 1½ lakhs in 1059, increasing to 8 lakhs in 1092, has now reached the amount of 19 lakhs and is still rising. Pay and allowances which was only Rs. 56 lakhs in 1092, has soared up to Rs. 116 lakhs in 1116. The axe has never been applied at all. The percentage of this expenditure to revenue is not quite becoming of our enlightened Government or its policy of re-orientation. In this connection I will be failing in my duty to the public if I do not refer to a tendency—a tendency dear to us, clinging fast to us, and manifesting itself more frequently in the past decade,—the importation of non-Travancoreans into the public services of the State. It may be permissible under unavoidable or extraordinary circumstances. What is it that is extraordinary or unavoidable here? Can that position

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be justified? The pay of most of those so got down prove a heavy burden on our exchequer and bear no justifiable proportion to our standard of living or to our average *per capita* income. Its bitter effects on the public service of the State—the discontentment and dissatisfaction it spreads among them—are which a State, an enlightened State like ours, should be particularly careful to avoid.

We have several times before, recorded our protests but no protest was of any avail. It is a pity that they all proved cries in the wilderness. Let not this too follow the others in suit to futility.

Let me in passing speak a word about our political expenditure. From below 4 lakhs of rupees in 1114 and 1115, it has risen to Rs. 8 lakhs in 1116. Whatever the reasons are, the inclusion of such a big amount under a non-votable head, I am afraid, tends to reflect a disrespect, disregard and a lack of confidence in the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member apparently forgets that Rs. 8 lakhs include Rs. 6 lakhs given for the war.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Rs. 6 lakhs is placed under 'Miscellaneous'.

PRESIDENT: Is that so?

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: But the item is not votable.

PRESIDENT: Where is it said that political expenditure is Rs. 8 lakhs? It is very serious charge on Government.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: On page 216 and 222 of the budget there is the necessary reference.

PRESIDENT; The Financial Secretary will please explain that.

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: Out of Rs. 10 lakhs provided, Rs. 5 lakhs has been included under 'political expenditure' which is non-votable.

PRESIDENT: When statements like that are made, they must be verified. When it is stated that a Government which was spending a lakh or two on political expenditure till last year, is now spending Rs. 8 lakhs, that raises a very serious matter against Government. Therefore it is necessary that honourable members should be careful of what they say. Rs. 8 lakhs referred to by the member is Rs. 5 lakhs. Out of Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakhs is for the army and the rest is against the political expenditure. It is for the honourable members to draw their own conclusions in the matter. But the facts must be ascertained from the proper channel.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR; Because I find that Rs. 6,50,000 is budgeted against an item termed 'Miscellaneous' on page 222 of the budget and because like other items no definite purpose was given, I naturally included that too under the head 35. In the Medical Department, I find an attempt to levy a fees from all whose income exceeds Rs. 50 per mensem. What is the criterion for this standard? Who will be empowered to identify that standard? Although the principle is one which will meet with universal approval, in practical adaptation it may only serve as a vehicle to increase the corruption alreay in existence. Its effects, I am afraid, may amount to a practical denial of free medical aid to the poor, one of the primary functions of any State.

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[Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair.]

Though the P. W. D. has budgeted lakhs of rupees for expenditure, the amount for new works for 1116 is only one lakh and sixty thousand. The proportion it bears to the total expenditure is a poor show indeed. The amount spent on irrigation in 1115 was negligible. They do not realise the necessity or importance of irrigation, for, the expenditure under irrigation for the last 2 or 3 years was below a lakh of rupees or somewhere about a lakh. It badly advocates the necessity for a separate irrigation division.

The Agricultural Department presents a pathetic sight. Agriculture is the mainstay of our people and the basis for all our industries and trade. The department had been in existence for decades and in spite of all their propaganda, demonstration and such other efforts of which they boast so much our agricultural output had been steadily dwindling. Plant diseases are ravaging. I fear, Sir, that we have come to a stage when with one voice, we should cry 'either mend it or end it'.

Before I pass on to our industrial and commercial enterprises, I may be permitted to speak a few words about the ordeal of appalling poverty and unemployment through which the country is passing. It is the primary function of any State to fight poverty and disease to extermination. The fact that the vital problem of unemployment was recognised by Government in all its graveness is evidenced by the appointment of the Unemployment Enquiry Committee. Since then batches and batches of educated unemployed found their way to the general list. Poverty which was let loose consequent on the economic depression is aggravated by the increase in slump and the dislocation of our trade. The Government have made a nod of recognition when they set apart Rs. 5 lakhs to alleviate the distress of Alleppey labourers. But this touches only a fringe of the problem. We are, I believe, on the march, to a famine era and the time is not too far when the Government will be called upon by duty to make sacrifices, vast and interminable.

Now I turn to the Transport Department. It is good that all utility services are nationalised. Everybody will approve that plan of nationalisation of transport services. But one principle that has to be remembered is the basic principle of cheapness which should form the basis of nationalisation of communications or other things. That has not yet been achieved. The real result of nationalisation of Transport has resulted in the increase of fares, the increase of a heavy indirect tax on the people, instead of cheapness. The war and the consequent increase in price is said to be the reason. I wonder, Sir, how it has not affected other private bus owners. (*The President's Bell*).

Mr. K. KUNJU PANICKAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnttur*): I have great pleasure in congratulating the Financial Secretary on producing a surplus budget before us. Though the surplus is not achieved by any retrenchment in expenditure, the surplus is all the same there. It is seen that the Financial Secretary could get the customs receipts in double proportion and also the minor circuit survey taxation also. On

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the whole, even without any super tax, this year's budget would be on the side of a surplus budget. Though there is a proposal for the imposition of super tax, it is only a tax on money earned by persons in affluent circumstances. So, nobody could object to that.

I have to say something about the application of the money set apart especially on the relief side. About Rs. 5 lakhs is ear-marked under 'Distress Relief Fund'. It is proposed to utilise a large portion of it in the Alleppey centre. Depression due to war is not confined to Alleppey area alone; it is keenly felt throughout Travancore. So, I beg to point out that the proposed relief measure should be spread throughout the whole State so that at all the important centres in the State, the labourites and the industrial classes who are suffering by the depression, may be benefited by it.

In respect of the Education Department, honourable members who spoke before me stated that the public examination which is proposed to be held in III form this year may not prove to the benefit of the candidates. But parents will have to incur a large expenditure on this score at this time of depression. The certificates derived as a result of the examination are not certificates at all and that they will not confer any merit on the candidates. Likewise, the parents too get no merit in the matter. My submission therefore is that any expenditure that may be involved in this connection should be avoided by Government.

One word on rebate of duty on Jaffna tobacco. Last year there was a cut motion on this subject in this House. The Ceylon Government put forward novel reasons for dumping their articles in different parts of India. They were able to do it with the help of the Government of India. Their actions presented serious difficulties that the Travancore Government, were tempted to adopt even reprisals. The duty was raised from Rs. 135 per candy to Rs. 200.

It appears that by a notification published with the date the 11th of July 1940 a rebate of Rs. 65 is allowed to the Mellabham licensee without reducing the duty. What will be the result? The tobacco consumer of the land will have to pay with the duty at the rate of Rs. 200 when he purchases it.

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member read the latter portion of that communique?

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: That communique says that by the expiry of this year, the Mellabham licensees will have to take from the Bankshall 1400 candies of tobacco. What I want to point out is that it is not the Mellabham licensee that is going to consume the whole tobacco. It is our people who are to consume the tobacco. Most probably the licensees might have artificially retained some portion of the tobacco in the Bankshall so that they may get some extra advantage from the Government. By the notification the 200 rupees duty is still there and our people will have to pay it. When our people have to pay that

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[Mr. K. Kunju Panickar.]

duty, when they purchase the tobacco, the Mellabham licensee will get 65 rupees rebate. That this rate has been raised as a sort of reprisal against the activities of the Ceylon Government should be noted here. It is also provided by that notification that no less than 3750 candies of Jaffna tobacco should be imported from next year forwards. Last year it was to curtail the import of Jaffna tobacco that that measure was adopted. Now it appears the arrangement is that the Jaffna tobacco should be imported in a larger proportion. Our consumers are not going to suffer by the stopping of the import of Jaffna tobacco. We can get Coimbatore or Trichinopoly tobacco for consumption here. The Ceylon people have raised the tariff wall against our articles. Materials exported from our country to Ceylon are not poisonous. But the exports from Ceylon to this country are poisonous and we have to import not less than 3,000 candies per year hereafter according to the notification. I submit that that arrangement is not in consonance with the understanding we had come to on the matter last year. The new changes will not be beneficial to the consumers here. If at all there is anybody to be benefited, it is the Mellabham licensees. I submit that the Government should seriously consider the condition of our consumers and the attitude of the Ceylon Government when the duty was raised. Hence, if any change is to be made, the duty must be lowered so that our consumers, rather than the Mellabham licensees, may be benefited.

Though I have to make some remarks on some other items, but because the time at my disposal is so very limited, I confine my remarks only to one more matter present. I congratulate the Financial Secretary for producing such a very good budget. I submit that this year there was draught in the country for a continuous period of five months. Cocoanut and arecanut trees were affected to a very large extent. The Punja cultivation of Onattukara and Kuttanad suffered a great deal by the draught. No consideration is shown about such continuous draught. I submit that that fact should be noted by the Government.

MR. P. C. ADICHAN (*Nominated*) : സർ, പ്രജകളുടെ രക്ഷയാണ് തന്റെ രക്ഷ എന്നുള്ള ഏക ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടി നമ്മെ അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നമ്മുടെ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യഭരണം കയ്യേറിട്ടു ഏകദേശം പത്തു വർഷമായിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഭാവിഭാഗധേയത്തിനു നിദാനമായ പള്ളിവാസൽ പദ്ധതി, സെറാമിക്സ് ഫാക്ടറി, ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് തുടങ്ങിയ വിവിധ പദ്ധതികളെക്കൊണ്ടു നമ്മെ ശോഭനമായ ഒരു ഭാവിയിലേക്കു നയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സന്ദർഭമാണ് ഫ്രാൻസ്-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ച ഈ അവസരം. ഫ്രാൻസ്-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിന്റെ വിവിധ വശങ്ങളെയുംപറ്റി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർമാർ ഇവിടെ നിരൂപണങ്ങൾ നടത്തി. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പൊതുവെയുള്ള സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ എല്ലാവരും പട്ടി

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ണികിടന്നു മരിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു ഒരു വെറും പരമാർത്ഥം മാത്രമാണ്. ആത്മഹത്തി ചെയ്യുന്നതു കുറ്റകരമാണെന്നു നിരോധിക്കുന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പട്ടിണികിടന്നു മരിക്കുന്നതും കുറ്റകരമാണെന്നു നിരോധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു മൂന്നു മാസങ്ങളിലുണ്ടായ വമ്പിച്ച ഉണക്കുമൂലം നാളികേരം, നെല്ലു മുതലായ കൃഷി വിഭവങ്ങളെല്ലാം കരിഞ്ഞുപോയിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. പട്ടിണികൊണ്ടു കഴിക്കേണ്ട കൃഷിക്കാരന്റെ കൂലിവേലക്കാരായി കഴിയുന്ന ആളുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയാം. ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അവശസമുദായക്കാർക്ക് പല സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങളുംചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു പൊതുവെ സമ്മതിക്കാമെങ്കിലും വ്യക്തിപരമായി പറയുന്നപക്ഷം കുറവസമുദായത്തിനു ഈ സഹായങ്ങൾ ശരിയായി ഫലിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഹരിജൻ ഹോസ്റ്റലിലേക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു പോരാതെ വരുന്നു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ ഫലമായി കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെക്കാൾ ൪൦൦ രൂപാ ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഹരിജൻ ഹോസ്റ്റലിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു അധികൃതന്മാർ അംഗീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയത്തെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കൊരു കായ്യം പറയുവാനുണ്ടു. ഹാസ്റ്റലിൽ കുറവ സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും പ്രവേശനം കിട്ടാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു ഒരു കുട്ടിക്കു മാത്രമാണ്. അവിടെ കാളേജ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ മാത്രമെ അംഗീകരിക്കുകയൊള്ളു എന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും ഈ അര ശതമാനം മാത്രം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ള കുറവസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും കാളേജ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു തയ്യാറായി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ വരുന്നതിനു വളരെ കാലതാമസം വേണ്ടി വരുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും, ഫലത്തിൽ ഹരിജൻ ഹോസ്റ്റൽകൊണ്ടു കുറവസമുദായത്തിനു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഹൈസ്കൂൾ ക്ലാസ്സുകളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന കുറവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുകൂടി ഹരിജൻ ഹാസ്റ്റലിൽ പ്രവേശനം അനുവദിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ വിവിധഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ അനേകം കാളനികൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഈ കാളനികളെല്ലാം കുറവസമുദായമില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലത്താണ് സ്ഥാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കുറവർ ധാരാളമുള്ള കുന്നത്തൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ കാളനിയില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു കുറവസമുദായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കു വളരെ ഹാനിതട്ടുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ദയവായി ധരിക്കണം. കുന്നത്തൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ ഏനാദിമംഗലം പകുതിയിൽ അനേകായിരം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം പണക്കാർക്കു തോട്ടത്തിനായി കൊടുക്കാമെങ്കിൽ ൪൯പതിനായിരത്തോളം വരുന്ന സാധുക്കളായ അവശ സമുദായക്കാർക്കു

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[Mr, P. C. Adichan].

ഒ ഏ ഠ ഏക്കറെങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ദയവുണ്ടാകുമെങ്കിൽ അതിനെക്കാൾ ഒരു വലിയ സഹായം കുറവുസമുദായത്തിനു ചെയ്യാനില്ല.

MR. N. VELU ACHARY (*Nominated*) : സർ, ഈ ധർമ്മരാജ്യം സാമ്പത്തികമായും, കാർഷികമായും, വ്യാവസായികമായും; രാഷ്ട്രീയമായും വളരെ വിഷമതകളനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ പൊതുവെയുള്ള അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി ഭീമമായ തുകകൾ ചേർത്തു മിച്ചത്തോടുകൂടി ഈ ബഡ്ജറു അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയെ ഞാൻ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ അവസരം വളരെ കഠോരമായ ഒന്നാണെന്നും ഇതിനെ തരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വളരെ ആലോചനാപൂർവ്വം പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. സർ, ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ വ്യവസായം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുകയെന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ നാം മനസു വയ്ക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ അവശത ഏറെക്കുറെ പരിഹരിക്കപ്പെടാം. ഇതര രാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള ചില കാർഷിക വ്യവസായ സാമഗ്രികൾ അതായതു രാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകാനുള്ള സൌകര്യവും നമ്മുടെ നിത്യതയ്ക്കാവശ്യമുള്ളതും അതിലേക്കു നാം അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളെ ആശ്രയിക്കുന്നതുമായ സാമഗ്രികൾ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടു വരുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യവും നമുക്കിപ്പോൾ അടഞ്ഞിരിക്കയാണല്ലോ. നമുക്കുപയോഗമുള്ള ഏതാനും സാധനങ്ങളെങ്കിലും നാമിവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ ഭാവിജീവിതം ആശ്വാസപ്രദമായിതീരും. അതുകൊണ്ടു എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ളതു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ദീർഘദൃഷ്ടിയോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നാണ്. രാജ്യത്തെ വ്യവസായാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള സംഖ്യ ബഡ്ജറിൽ പ്രത്യേകം നീക്കി വയ്ക്കണം.

വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു നാലു ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. എന്നാൽ ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നതു് വ്യവസായ വായ്പ്പക്കായി പതിനായിരം രൂപാ മാത്രമെ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ഇതു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ നാം വ്യവസായപരമായി എത്രത്തോളം ഉയർച്ചയെ പ്രാപിക്കും, നമ്മുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കഷ്ടതകൾക്കു ഏതു നിലയിൽ പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ കഴിയും എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഗാഢമായി ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയം തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു വ്യവസായപരമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു നല്ല സംഖ്യ ബഡ്ജറിൽ നീക്കിവയ്ക്കണമെന്നു ബഹുമാനപുരസ്സരം ഗവണ്മെൻറി

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നെ ഞാൻ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇതിനൊരു ഏകീകൃതവഴി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മയത്തിലായിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. സർ, ഇവിടെ ഇൻകം റാക്കിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന തുക കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ഫലലക്ഷം വരുമെന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഈ തുക മുഴുവനും വ്യവസായത്തിനുവേണ്ടി നീക്കി വയ്ക്കുന്നതു് ഉചിതമായിരിക്കും. അതിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ആദായവും അതിൽതന്നെ ചേർത്തു വ്യവസായാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു തന്നെ ചെലവിടാം. ഇങ്ങനെ നാട്ടിലെ വ്യവസായത്തിനു സാരമായ രോഗശമനം ചെയ്യാമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Director of Industries*): Sir. in the course of the speeches that were made yesterday and today some comments were made on some of the activities connected with the department over which I have the privilege to preside. Several of the honourable members made mention of what has been done by the department, what is being done by the department and what should have been done by the department. I shall divide the criticism under four heads.

PRESIDENT: I am going to give the Director of Industries five minutes, the Chief Secretary five minutes and the Financial Secretary 15 to 20 minutes. So the member will try to be brief.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Remarks were made about the Rubber Factory, the Ceramic Factory, the prospecting operations carried on by the department and also some personal charges were directed against me. Government are as anxious as the honourable members of this House to start the Rubber Factory at the earliest possible opportunity. There were several offers last year for undertaking the work of the Rubber Factory. There have been over a dozen applications for taking over the work of the Factory. Government have to be very cautious in handing over the charge of the Factory to anybody particularly after the unfortunate experience they had in connection with the agency that undertook the work before. The announcement made by the Dewan is to the effect that within the next few days, probably, an agreement will be executed and the factory will resume work.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: Was it the idea of Government to start the work last year by themselves?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The question has been considered by Government. There was a provisional allotment of Rs. 10,000 and all the questions connected with it were gone into and it was decided that they would rather not take it up themselves, if suitable agencies are available. Mention was made of the disparity between the anticipated budget amount and the money realised from the Ceramic Factory. Several factors were not anticipated at the beginning of last year and they have brought about the disparity. But this disparity is not all with wrong side. It would be observed from a scrutiny of the figures that as a result of conditions prevailing there has been a distinct appreciation in the realisation from China Clay. But there was a fall in the

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realisation from the manufactured goods. Some machinery had to be got down to complete the equipment and this has not arrived as a result of the out break of hostilities in the West. This is one of the reasons why the realisation under the head of manufactured goods went below expectations.

Now with regard to the prospecting. We have got large mineral resources embedded in the earth. We have to conduct researches to find them. One cannot be sure where a particular ore may be found. Two very distinguished geologists, one from America and the other a Professor from the Presidency College. Madras, surveyed the work done by the Department. And they were satisfied with the work done by the department and have reported that the department is working on the right lines. Incidentally, I may state that a distinction is to be made between prospecting and mining. Prospecting is carried out only for investigation purposes. You may get at a particular desired substance or you may not. But with regard to mining the result is definite and you are working for profits. We do not guarntee much with regard to prospecting. However, in this connection I am glad to state that even though we are doing only prospecting, we have won some 5 thousand to 6 thousand rupees worth of graphite and mica.

Now, Sir, coming to the personal charges which were levelled against me by the honourable member Mr. P. Sivarama Pillai I am constrained to say that these charges do not seem to be above board. In the open House he has made insinuations against may conduct. If there is any official misbehaviour on my part, Government could have easily made an enquiry into the matter. I challenge the honourable member who says that I have been indulging in favouritism to prove his allegation. I challenge him to cite instances where I have departed from the rules or from the recognised practice in the Department. If the honourable member could prove the allegations contained in his remarks, I am prepared to stand the consequences. That the honourable member has chosen to cast aspersions on an officer, taking umbrage under the privileges of this House, is to be deplored.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: I accept the challenge and I am prepared to prove the allegations.

PRESIDENT: All honourable members of this House have got the right to invite an enquiry into the conduct of a particular officer but it should be done in the proper manner. And it is not a proper thing to invite such enquiry on the floor of this House at this juncture. The honourable member can put forward his allegations to Government asking for an enquiry.

MR M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, it is a matter for gratification that the Budget has on the whole been well received in this House. I have to make only a few observations concerning some of the important subjects dealt with in the course of the discussions.

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Some of the honourable members of the House seem to be under the impression that the provision of 2 lakhs of rupees for the registry of minor circuits is an over--estimate. I shall try to explain how matters stand with regard to this. The total area surveyed till the end of Medom 1115 is 1,91,694 acres. Out of this, the survey records in respect of 32,000 acres have been completed and the whole area is available for registry. 24,000 acres out of this, are occupied lands and Rs. 10 per acre is the minimum rate of tharavila. It may not be difficult to realise 2 1/2 lakhs of rupees next year.

Sir, it has been said that some of the departments are top heavy. Particular reference has been made to the Ayurveda, Police and the Public Works Department. Here are some of the statistics concerning those Departments. In the Public Works Department the total expenditure under civil works comes to about Rs. 38,84,000, the total expenditure under Direction is Rs. 63,779, and this works up to a percentage of 1.7. In Madras the total expenditure under civil works comes to Rs. 1,40,06,500 and under direction Rs. 3,20,700. The per centage is 2.3. In Cochin, the total expenditure under civil works is Rs. 8,30,900 and under direction Rs. 40,200, the per centage being 4.8. In Mysore, the total expenditure under civil works comes to Rs. 46,32,200 and under direction Rs. 1,35,700; the per centage is 2.9. These figures speak for themselves.

Now Sir, with reference to Ayurveda Department Mr. K. R. Narayanan compared the expenditure under salaries in Cochin with that in Travancore. It will be observed that the provision made in the Budget for the next year is Rs. 45,800 as compared with Rs. 34,344 expended in 1113. Mr. K. R. Narayanan has also made a comparison between the expenditure in Cochin and here. It will be conceded that the expenditure under direction has to be commensurate with the provision made for the department in the Budget. Taking grants alone the expenpiture here is 2 1/2 times that of Cochin. While we are spending Rs. 39,598, nearly Rs. 40,000, for grants, Cochin is spending only Rs. 17,000.

As for the Police Department, it may be found that the expenditure on account of the Inspector General's Office is in no way disproportionate to the total allotment. The allotment under direction is about 14 per cent of the total departmental budget which is almost the same as in Cochin.

MR. PULYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, on a point of order. In the light of the President's ruling I wish to know whether the honourable member, the Chief Secretary is in order to compare figures obtaining in other countries?

PRESIDENT: The honourable President's ruling could not have been with reference to a comparison of figures. But he might have objected to the comparison of the character of the people of other States with the character of the people of this country. And so far as budget debtes are concerned a compartive statement of figures obtaining elsewhere cannot be objected to. In fact the budget of a country mainly depends upon the comparision of figures.

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MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: It may also be stated that the reorganisation of the Department which was effected in 1114 has resulted in a saving of Rs. 12,250 per annum under salaries and establishment.

Now with regard to the Public Service Rocruitment Rules. The necessity for the issue of early orders on the subject of recruitment to the Public Service has been adverted to by more than one honourable member. This matter is engaging the serious attention of Government and final orders will be issued before the end of the year.

Mr. T. P, Velayudhan Pllai has in his characteristic way complained that adequate attention is not being paid by Government to the resolutions and cut motions passed by the Assembly.

MR PULYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, a word of personal explanation.

(The Financial Secretary was called upon to speak).

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: I am really very grateful to the members of the honourable House and the President for the generally very kind words with which they have received the budget.

Several important questions have been raised on the floor of the House. One is whether in respect of the commercial concerns Government were in order in debiting interest to the working expenses instead of to the capital account before the scheme began to earn full revenue. In the matter of allocation of charges between capital and revenue the main principle prescribed in the Codes is that capital bears charges of construction as well as charges for maintenance of sections not opened for working as well as subsequent additions and improvements. Revenue should bear all charges of maintenance and working expenses including interest, from the moment a revenue account is opened. This is also the most conservative view. The capitalisation of interest will cease with the opening of the revenue account, although for purposes of determining the productivity or otherwise of a concern, arrears of simple interest spread over a period of ten years will have to be capitalised. Another point regarding the accounting procedure adverted to in the speech is in respect of the valuation I have made of the investments under surplus investments accounts. It has been suggested that the valuation should have been based on the market value and not at the actual purchase value. I agree with the honourable member who made out the point that this is the correct procedure in commercial concerns but Government accounts are not maintained on a commercial basis. The accounts should record transactions only as they actually occur and not as they would have occurred under any given conditions. The practice universally adopted, whether in the States or British India, is to keep the accounts of securities at their actual purchase value. To maintain a proforma account for purposes of the appraisement of the investment position based on market value if it is lower than purchase value is a different question. This has not been attempted by this Government and there is no need to attempt it either.

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In connection with certain accounting changes which have been characterised as leading to changes in principles, I have been called a faddist in accounts. I may say that being faddist in accounts is no crime. The accounting change, for instance, I have already explained and I don't think the member has established a case for disputing the principles. As regards capital works, the member is obsessed with thebalance in Government accounts. There is no specially earmarked account called Government account. Government account in the sense in which it is used everywhere isa lways a big minus. I can only repeat, a banking account is not a place for showing your fixed assets. If a spectacular effect is desired to be produced all the assets may be taken into account in a statement which will really have the spectacular effect which the member desires.

I am very obliged to Mr. Padmanabha Pillai for the descrepancies and the so called juggleries which he has been able to discover in the budget. They seem to exist however more in his imagination than in reality. He has first started with my statement regarding the comparison of actuals of 1114 M. E. with budget estimates. He has overlooked the fact that I have commenced my speech with the budget presented by my predecessor which was the revised estimate for 1114 and not the budget estimate for 1114. I am also sure that he is no unaware of the fact that the parliamentary practice is to compare that actuals with the revised estimate and not budget estimate. The member is also, I am sure, aware of the fact that the budget estimate for 1114 has nothing at all to do with the budget estimate for 1116.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: What about the use of the word budgeted?

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: It is perfectly correct. Estimated means budgeted.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Has it nothing to do with the statement made by the Financial Secretary?

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: Absolutely nothing.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI. I do not know.

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: I am sorry for the member.

The normal revenue given by me as Rs. 265 lakhs is called in question. It includes a revenue of a permanent nature and has been very carefully worked out. Again he says that in instituting a comparison I have omited six lakhs in expenditure relating to the previous year. I may state that Rs. 10 lakhs budgeted has no comparison with the item and need not be excluded.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: With the subtracting of ten lakhs from the 265 lakhs, is it not necessary to subtract six lakhs from the amount of revenue for this year?

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: My point is that they are not like items. It is not necessary.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Will the member kindly explain why they are not like quantities?

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: No explanation is necessary.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, the honourable member is not willing to explain...

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The honourable member will proceed and finish the speech. If any questions are put to him afterwards, he can answer then.

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: I find that some of the honourable members view my budget as a surplus one and certain others claim it to be a deficit budget. The fact is that I have given only the arithmetic of the figures. Government have nowhere claimed any credit or originality in the figures being as they are. I have already stated that a surplus budget is not a desideratum.

One member said that I have budgeted really for a deficit of Rs. 6¾ lakhs. In arriving at this figure this member deducted an amount of Rs. 15 lakhs plus Rs. 5 lakhs from my revenue anticipations and put the expenditure at Rs. 271 lakhs. But the real deduction that should be made is a sum of only Rs. 15 lakhs from the revenue. The sum of Rs. 5 lakhs, however, is not liable to be deducted from it and an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs intended for war purposes has also to be deducted on the expenditure side. The actual figures will therefore be Rs. 270 lakhs minus Rs. 261 lakhs, which means that there is a surplus of about Rs. 9 lakhs of which I appropriate Rs 5 lakhs towards the Distress Relief Fund. There is still a surplus. But this, as I have already admitted, is not a desideratum.

Next I come to the points raised regarding the revenue anticipations. I am thankful to the members for the very valuable observations they have made on the policy underlying each department and also for the trouble they have taken to correlate the policy with the results in the shape of revenue realisations anticipated. At the outset, I may state that our estimates are fixed with reference to the detailed and expert examination conducted by the departments, and figures were arrived at after due consideration of the general economic conditions of the country as well as the special conditions relating to each of the departments. It is the hope of Government that the departmental officers will do their best to collect the revenue, and unless there are extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, the revenue anticipated would be realised. Government also fully realise that these are only estimates based on the existence of certain data and so long as the conditions envisaged in the data are present, Government will keep a close and continuous watch of the position and take all steps necessary to preserve the budgetary equilibrium. Government hold that the estimates are by no means over-pitched. I shall briefly restate the position.

Under Land Revenue, the Chief Secretary has explained as to how we shall expect an extra sum of 2 lakhs.

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As regards income tax, the extra revenue of Rs. 3 lakhs budgeted by me over and above the normal is considered as improbable of being realised. The question of equity of the realisatiou has also been raised by some of the members. I may state for the information of the members that out of a total revenue of about Rs. 10 lakhs, we are getting from individual assessees a revenue of Rs. 3·6 lakhs. Of this amount, the revenue realised from people getting an income between Rs. 2,000 and Rs 5,000 is only about Rs. 1·1 lakhs; the rest of it is from people getting over Rs. 5,000. The income derived from the companies is about Rs. 6·6 lakhs, of which over Rs. 5 lakhs is realised from about ten companies having an income of over a lakh of rupees each. I may also state that the tax for 1116 will be in respect of the income for 1115 which has not so totally suffered as that of what the future holds in her lap. In the circumstances, I must state that the expectation of Rs. 3 lakhs from out of the steepening up of the progression and of the the levy of supertax is not too much on the optimistic side. I am confident that this is only the minimum and it won't be a surprise and honourable members would not grudge if the amount is something much more. As regards the question of equity, it is true that it will to a certain extent affect the Tea Planters. Two of the members have stated that if the idea of the legislation is to equalise the conditions of the assessee here and British India, this will work in the contrary direction. But I am afraid the whole point of the legislation has not been properly appreciated. The idea behind it is that all those who pay income tax at enhanced rates in British India should also pay the same rates to us and should not allow the benefit really due to us to accrue to other Governments. Even as a question of war measure, if we only look at the latest budget estimates of the United Kingdom presented a few days ago, wherein taxation to the extent of 16 to 18 shillings per pound is levied and if we bear in mind the words of the Dewan-President that the State of Travancore is just like England at the present day in the matter of external danger, I do not think that anybody would object to this tax which is after all at the rate of those levied in our neighbouring countries.

The question of excess profits duty is really a vexed question. One member went so far as to say whether there is any excess profit at all. Government have sufficient data to conclude that, under war conditions, in certain industries, excess profits are being made and it is the intention of Government not to kill the industries but only to appropriate for themselves only that portion of the excess profits arising out of the war just as it is done in British India.

Regarding the contracts for cardamom, the same member expressed the doubt whether it will be possible for this Government to get contracts in Travancore. It must be realised that the production is entirely in our State and that by pooling up the produce it will be quite possible for Government to tap the contracts notwithstanding the hold the contracts might have taken elsewhere.

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[Mr. S. Sundararajan.]

Then there is the question of customs. I am afraid that almost all members are very pessimistic about my figures under customs. I think I owe them a more detailed explanation. In the first place they are of opinion that our revenue from the Cochin Harbour Agreement might not be so great as the figure budgeted for; secondly, that our figures under exports may not be up to our anticipations. I may state that the revenue under customs, as already explained in my budget speech, provides not only for the 90 per cent. revenue already realised and kept under suspense in 1115 and the 10 per cent. under share of the Cochin Harbour Agreement which will be realised in due course; but also for revenue realisable in respect of 1115 wherein a cut of something like 33 per cent has been made. Even if this cut were to be greater it is hoped that the opening up of fresh fields for our industries, a question which will be taken up very seriously by Government, would take us up at least to our anticipations.

In regard to the tobacco revenue, Government do not share the opinion of the member that the consumption has a chance of being radically reduced under the bogey of the economic depression.

The honourable member Mr. Krishna Aiyar would even go to the extent of anticipating a fall in our Stamp revenue. Government would secure that revenue does not suffer by the passing of the Debt Relief Act.

As regards the revenue from commercial departments, most of the honourable members are anxious to have some spectacular results with the opening of these concerns. It would have been possible to show even spectacular results but unfortunately extraordinary conditions have developed. The State Congress movement, the outbreak of the War, the shortage of materials and the rise in prices of machinery and other articles have had their effect in retarding the progress of works and in increasing the cost of operation. In all commercial undertakings a period of 10 years is allowed for development. And all our commercial undertakings have not even stood quarter of the period and even in the quarter of the period, in the opinion of Government the departments have amply justified the hopes which Government have set on their revenue results. In an extremely dynamic world when everything is progressing, when there is so much of re-adjustment in social and economic conditions, with a certain amount of optimism backed, of course, by sufficient materials, there is nothing wrong in hoping for the best.

As regards the Transport Department which has come in for considerable comment, especially the loss in 1114, I may say that the figure is due to the adjustment of depreciation for the years 1113 and 1114 in a single year and if only the year's results are taken there was no loss in 1114 either. When the transport was operated in 1113, it ran only for a few months. Government thought that it was no use changing the depreciation charges.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: May I know what percentage is deducted by way of depreciation?

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MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: If ranges from 5 to 25 per cent.

In any case, Government have not hoped for a 12 per cent. return for the current year. It is expected for the next year. As regards Electricity Department Government have taken cognisance of a revenue of Rs. 30 lakhs. My friend the Electrical Engineer says that I ought to have taken the figures as Rs. 38½ lakhs.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether any sum was set apart as reserve for 1115.

MR. S. SUNDARARAJAN: It has been stated in the speech that whatever surplus is left over will be appropriated to the revenue reserve fund? I shall now answer some points on the expenditure side. Mr. Krishna Aiyar said that while we hope for the best we should be prepared for the worst. We are prepared for the worst, we have provided Rs. 10 lakhs for war and political purposes. One other member said if we expect a surplus why should we raise extra revenue by taxation at all. I have, I think made myself sufficiently clear in my speech in saying that this is intended for keeping ourselves in funds, should the war be prolonged, in other words, it is a preparation for the worst.

In commenting on the measures of retrenchment adopted by this Government, one member said that there is no continuity of policy and that certain arrangements are discontinued on purely personal considerations. I can only emphatically repudiate the suggestion as unworthy of Government. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is chary of giving credit to Government for the economies effected. The post of Dr. Kamesam being not filled and the same principle being adopted in the Co-operative Department are certainly measures of retrenchment. It was open to Government to have filled up the appointments but they have as a measure of retrenchment decided not to do so.

Another member deprecated the heaviness of salaries and pension budgets. A suggestion has been made that it would be preferable to make a deduction from the salaries of Government servants and pay the amount in a lump at the time of the retirement of the officers. I do not know whether the member is aware of the demand which this item will make on the revenue of the State. It will certainly exceed our pension budgets. As regards salaries and pensions, he gave some comparative figures. I can inform the honourable member that the percentage of salaries and establishments to total expenditure is 35·2 in Travancore as compared with 40·9 in Hydrabad, 35·1 in Mysore, and 41·6 in Madras. Similarily, the percentage of pension charges to total expenditure is 5·6 in Travancore, 5·8 in Mysore and 6 7 in Madras.

The point has also been raised that the expenditure is increasing; but, I have shown that it has kept pace with the revenue.

Another honourable member raised the question that the actuals both under receipts and charges have always shown very wide variations from the budget estimates, and he even went on to say that the revenue is always under-budgeted and the expenditure is over-budgeted.

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[Mr. S. Sundarajan.]

I have only to invite the attention of the honourable member to the revised estimates for 1115 which would clearly show that although the revenue was under-budgeted we realised more. Expenditure was also under-budgeted but the excess arose not on account of any of the reasons stated by the honourable member but only on account of certain conditions arising out of the war.

That member went on to say that the whole budget is characterised by the bugbear of international conditions although he has failed to substantiate what he has said. I admit that the international conditions have a certain share in the framing of the budget of the day but it is not the prime factor. As I said in the opening address the hopes and aspirations of the country are fully chronicled in the frame work set in the international affairs.

The point was raised regarding the question of control of prices and especially of the price of rice. I am glad that the policy has received the unanimous approbation of the House. But I only want to correct the figure of the extent of the loss arising out of the transaction. Most of the members estimate it to be in the neighbourhood of a lakh or lakh and a half. As conditions stand at present, I am glad to assure the members that the loss would be very much less than Rs. 50,000.

Another point raised is in respect of the classification of officers into gazetted and non-gazetted. The result of the suggestion of the honourable member would be to increase the number of gazetted officers. Compared with the conditions in the Province of which I have experience, it would appear that it is more necessary to curtail the number of gazetted posts than to increase them. Anyhow, the question will receive very careful consideration.

Government are already aware that there are no proper banks to back commercial interests and the question will receive their fullest consideration.

In regard to the railway, I have not provided for a loss. I may say that Government have very sound reasons. There are certain questions pending with the Railway authorities with a view to reducing the capital on which interest charges are calculated and also the reduction of interest on debentures. Government hope that these questions will be settled and that with the savings arising from the retrocession of railway lands and an efficient overaudit it may be possible to avoid a loss.

The loan policy of Government has been criticised by one member. He said that the Government are unwilling to raise a loan. Another said that I am advocating financing capital works from revenue. This is certainly just the opposite of the fact. If regard were to be paid to the canons of pure public finance, the floatation of a loan for financing capital works, as has been already stated by me, is only the proper method. Government are not also afraid of raising a loan. But Government would prefer to choose their own time for raising the loan. For the present, they have a comfortable closing balance and

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other investments. A heavy closing balance is not an essential requirement of a solvent Government. The balance must be limited to the minimum and it has to be supplemented by loans only when and to the extent necessary. The same member also expressed a doubt whether we would be able to amortise at call the entire loan. In the present state of the balances I do not think it a difficult task but the question itself is purely an academic one not coming within the range of practical politics.

Lastly, about the exposition of the financial position. I have appraised the financial position according to the strict principle of public finance and I have re-examined the position in the light of all the remarks offered on the floor of the House and I have little hesitation in adhering to the view that the general financial position out-lined by me is the correct position.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Under Rule 70, after the Financial Secretary has exercised his right of reply, I have the privilege of making a few remarks and I propose to do so mainly with a view to clear the air on one or two matters.

In the first place, let me pay a tribute to the honourable members for the generally helpful manner in which the Budget debate has been conducted. No doubt, there have been passages of arms, but, as is well known the Budget day is a field day and it is the lot of the Financial Secretary to receive in a collective form all the knocks that are separately intended for each of the departments and in these little conflicts no harm is done by one blow more or less. I am sure that the honourable members who have either delivered blows or received them will take part in further discussions on the Budget in that spirit. I, however, make an exception in the case of personal aspersions which stand on a different footing.

Now, there are a few points which I wish to make clear and, in doing so, I shall explain the policy in general terms and not enter into the details.

The first matter is about pensions. Well, if the pensions give a headache to the members of this Honourable House, they give more than a headache, they give insomnia to the Government. But, I have listened in vain throughout all the speeches made during the course of these two days for some constructive suggestion, short of draconian measures, to be adopted for stopping or curtailing the payment of these pensions. The theory of pensions is, I take it somewhat like this. A person enters Government service on an explicit contract that if he serves the Government faithfully for 15, 20, or 30 years, he will at the end of that period, even though he may not have saved any moneys and though honest Government servants are not expected to put by more than a comparatively small amount, have something which will enable him to maintain himself and his family in moderate comfort. That is the consideration which induces many people to prefer Government service to other careers and

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[President.]

what they call the security of Government service to other forms of profitable employments like my own profession. Now, how can we possibly, having made up our minds to entertain these Government servants, frustrate their hopes and legitimate aspirations. It may be that one idea or one solution is that hereafter we may establish some kind of provident fund. In that case, probably, the actual salary may have to be increased. At the same time the possibility of illicit gains has to be guarded against. I put it to the honourable members of the House that they should consider the further implications of this question, which I do not wish to detail now. But, I may add, we have now in hand no solution which will be considered practicable with due reference to the continued honesty and the peace of mind of the Government servants.

The position regarding the Rubber Factory is as follows. No doubt, if no other person had come up and no other agency were willing to take up this Factory, Government had made up their mind to run it themselves, but with great reluctance, because the difficulty with regard to the Rubber Factory, I may assure the honourable members, is not the mere running of it. The machinery there is good and, in fact, it is more than sufficient for producing the goods that are in demand here and elsewhere the labourers have been testified to be absolutely first rate and skilled labour is obtainable without much difficulty. Even, what may be called the supervising labour is available. But, what was the difficulty of the late management? The difficulty was the marketing of the goods and at the risk of being considered to be rather flippant, I may say that the late management produced—I am speaking with all possible reservations and with all possible allowances—luxury articles without ensuring a market for them. Supposing the Rubber Factory produced some thousands of contraceptives. There must be somebody to purchase them and they were not sold. That was the difficulty with the Rubber Factory and it so happened that it went on producing goods about the future of which it had no earthly notion from the marketing point of view. When they came to the problem of finding markets they were left in the wilderness. I do not want to blame anybody for this state of affairs. Now, suppose Government work this machinery: Government would have produced rubber tyres, inner tubes, rubber hoses and other goods. At the present moment, any amount of rubber goods in the way of tyres and hoses could be sold in the world at advantageous prices. But, there must be an agency for their sale. That agency must have an inducement to sell those goods. The late management was not very successful in getting such an agency and that was why we had to wait it until we came to a position when reputable firms with connections all over India and ample financial resources were willing to take up production and sales. The production of goods is easy, but the difficulty is the marketing of them, just as the difficulty in the country in regard to the marketing of our mineral sands. We produce mineral sands by the hundred thousand tons—very valuable and very important commodities indeed. But sale involves many factors and is not an easy thing. In fact it is a mononoly

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There was a suggestion made by one honourable member regarding the far too optimistic nature of the anticipations from stamp fees. I wish to prepare this Honourable House by telling them before hand if and when they pass the Debt Legislation, the Government are not going to allow any debtor to take summary proceedings on the basis of a nominal payment of one or two rupees getting the whole advantage that he would obtain by a regular suit and proceedings under that suit. I think, such optimistic debtors will be rather disillusioned, because our idea is not to bring about the hoped for result without a measure of taxation.

With regard to cardamom, I do not think I had explained the position thoroughly. The position is this. There are a large number of foreign cardamom planters—by foreign I mean non-Travancorean—and a small and dwindling number of Travancoreans own cardamom estates. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the agitation for confining all the cardamom estates to Travancoreans, the Travancoreans who got the estates have too often been making all haste to dispose of their cardamom estates to non-Travancoreans directly or indirectly. The result is, just as in the case of the Sugar Factory or the Rubber Factory, whenever Government make any definite attempt to confine the industrial enterprises to Travancoreans, they have carried on the work only for a short period and afterwards endeavour to transfer those industries to others. That is a feature which we have to eliminate and, I am sure, that it will engage the attention of the public and the members of this Honouraable House. The whole sale marketing of cardamom is in the hands of a few people outside the state and the work of the middlemen is also transacted outside the state. The whole of the middlemen's profit and the profit on wholesale transactions goes outside the State. In other words, as somebody picturesquely remarked, a number of donkey loads of cardamoms are taken from the estates over the hills to the valleys on the other side of the Ghats. All the cardamom produced passes through the middlemen situate at Kambam or Bodi or some other place to the purchasers who come from Bombay, Calcutta or Cawnpore and have established agencies for the purchase of it. Therefore, the profit that goes to the middlemen goes to persons outside the State and the residual profit of the ultimate purchaser is outside the State and the State derives no benefit from these transactions. The idea of the Government is to take such steps with the aid of our revenue and our legal advisers, as will force the middlemen to operate in Travancore itself and bring into existence a central warehouse and market in Travancore so that the legitimate taxation may ensure to the benefit of the State. In other words, the idea is to make Travancore earn an adequate share of the profit in the sale of this commodity, which profit Travancore rights deserves to earn by reason of the fact that cardamom is practically our monopoly.

I do not think that I have anything more to say except that, in regard to the loan policy of Government, I am wholly at one with those who declare that work which is done for the sake of the present

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[President.]

generation and for the benefit of the posterity should be paid for not only by the present generation and out of the revenues that are derivable annually but, in such a manner that the burden will be borne by the succeeding generations as well. But, there are times and occasions when loans are not propitious and the present is one such occasion. When the moment the occasion becomes propitious for the raising of a loan, the policy of the flotation of a loan for financing capital works will be considered.

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 8 p. m. for considering the Debt Relief Bill and at 11 a. m. on Monday the 29th July for the purpose of voting of Demands.

The House adjourned at 5-15 p. m.

The Assembly met at 8 P. M. with the Deputy President in the Chair.)

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—DEBT RELIEF BILL—(*contd.*)

Clause 11.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Co-opted for the Debt Relief Bill*): I move that clause 11 be omitted. Clause 11 says.

> "In determining the amount of a decree debt for purposes of payment under Sections 8 and 9, notwithstanding any thing contained in Section 31 of the Code of Civil Proceedure, 1100, or any other law, contract, decree or order of courts to the contrary, not more than one-half of the principal in the case of money debts and not more than the principal in the case of paddy debts shall be deemed payable towards interest upto the date of the degree and not more than a like amount towards interest from the date of the decree."

Now there are double provisions in Sections 9 and 11. Now that clause 9 is applied there is no necessity for clause 11. If clause 11 and 9 are applied together interest at any time will not be more than 5 per cent and further the transaction is to be in force. I submit that the clause was not introduced in the original bill. It should not find a place in the new bill as well.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: I second it.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): Sir, the learned member Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar objected to the retension of clause 11 for the reason that it will work great hardship. This clause was introduced by the Select Committee. One result of section 31 of the Civil Procedure Code is to allow interest to accumulate to any extent after the institution of the suit even though on the date of the institution of the suit it had accrued to one-half of the principal. The law that prevailed before was that no interest exceeding half the principal shall be awarded by the decree. There is a large volume of public opinion in this country that as a result of the provision contained in section 31 interest has accumulated to a very large extent. It is notorious that law delays in this country are much

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greater than in any other part in India. Public opinion therefore is that without the debtor being at fault interest in very many cases has accumulated. The provision contained in Section 31 was made for very good reason. Laxity on the part of the creditor plaintiff and delay in courts owing to circumstances beyond the control of the debtor defendant have contributed to a large measure the accumulation of interest in the case of debts for which suits have been instituted. It appears to be but just and proper that the debtor should be given some relief. The rule relating to accumulation of interest after decree was that it should not exceed half the principal. We have started on the assumption that owing to the steep fall in the price of commodities it was not possible for the debtor to repay his debt. If that is accepted as a matter of fact then it would mean that accumulation of interest after 1105, also requires some other sort of moderation. It must however be remembered that Clause 11 allows the reduction only for purpose of payment under Clause 9. It may also be stated for the information of the House that this principle has been accepted and adopted in several Provinces in British India where all interest remaining due has been directed to be wiped out. No doubt it means another scaling down of debt. But as it is for the purposes of payment and not for other purposes, hardship arising out of it will not be much. If payment is not made, the creditor will still be entitled to realise what he is entitled to under Section 31 of the Civil Procedure Code. I would request Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar not to press his motion.

The amendment of Mr. R. Sambasiva Aiyar that Clause 11 be omitted was put to vote and declared lost.

The question that Clause 11 do stand part of the Bill was put.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR: I oppose.

Clause 11 was put to vote and carried.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12.

The question that Clause 12 do stand part of the Bill was put.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR: I oppose.

Clause 12 was put to vote and carried.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clause 13.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I move that in Clause 13, sub-clause (1) clause (a) between the word 'confirmed' and the word 'or' the following shall be inserted, namely, "before the commencement of this Act." It is only for the purpose of making the matter clearer.

MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO: I second it.

The amendment that in Clause 13, sub-clause (1) clause (a), between the word "confirmed" and the word "or" the following shall be inserted, namely :—"before the commencement of this Act", was put to vote and carried.

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MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I move the amendment that:—

In Clause 13, sub-clause (1) (b) omit the rest of the sentence after the words "shall set aside the sale" in line 7 and add "and that debtor shall have all the benefits under Sections 9 and 10, if the purchaser is the decree-holder" and read the whole Clause.

Sir, with the amendment the section would read, "then notwithstanding anything contained in the Travancore Limitation Act or the Code of Civil Procedure, 1100, or any other law for the time being in force, the debtor may within ninety days from the commencement of this Act, apply to the Court or authority which held the sale to set aside the sale, and such Court or authority, as the case may be, shall set aside the sale and that debtor shall have all the benefits under Sections 9 and 10, if the purchaser is the decree holder."

The principle of my amendment will be acceptable on general grounds. This provision for setting aside the sales after 1-12-1114 was taken from the draft bill of the Debt Relief Committee.

The intention of adopting the Section by the Debt Relief Committee was this. There was an agitation by the debtors that the creditors are hurrying up the execution of decrees to harass them and thereby realise the dues before the Act comes into force. The debtors requested the Committee to recommend to Government for a stay of all execution proceedings, till the New Legislation. After discussion the committee came to the conclusion that a provision to set aside all sales after the appointment of the committee shall be added, whereby the debtor will get all benefits under the provisions even if the creditors have sold their properties. With that idea, naturally the Debt Relief Committee adopted the provision to set aside all sales that has taken place after 1-1-1114, the date of the appointment of the Committee. In cases where unauthorised sales have taken place, such sales will be set aside and relief granted to the debtors under order 21 Rl. 87 of the C. P. C. The existing provision found in the Bill will not help the debtor to pay the debt in instalments of 2, 6 or 9 years, as it was intended. The clause suggested by the Debt Relief Committee is:—

"When in execution of any decree

(a) Any sale of immovable property has taken place before the first day of Karkadagom 1114 but such sale has not been confirmed, or

(b) any sale of immovable property has taken place on or after the first day of Karkadagom 1114 and whether such sale has been confirmed or not,

then notwithstanding anything contained in the Limitation Act, 1100, or the Civil Procedure Code, 1100, or any other law for the time being in force, the debtor or any person interested in the immovable property may apply to such court or prescribed authority within ninety days from the commencement of this Act to set aside the sale and such court or authority shall, if on scaling down the decree debt in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it is satisfied that the amount for which the sale has been effected is in excess of the amount found due on such scaling down, order the sale to be set aside and thereupon the sale shall be deemed to have not taken place at all."

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